
University Studies
North Carolina A&T State University
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Full Committee Meeting Dec 20, 2004 Minutes

The University Studies (UNST) Committee met on Monday Dec 20, 2004 in the Library Seminar Room at 9:45 AM. The following members were present: Robert Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, Shirley Bell, Jean Williams, Michael Roberto, David Aldridge, Peter Meyers, Donald McDowell.

- I. Sarin shared a draft course syllabus for the Freshman Seminar (attached). He invited members to send him feedback. Further discussion on this syllabus will continue in Spring 2005.
- II. The committee next discussed the role of foundation courses and their relationship to theme-based courses in clusters. There was general agreement that Foundation Courses serve to prepare students for theme-based courses.
- III. On the role of competency testing, it was agreed that students who fail any of these tests will not be permitted to register for a courses in the same subject area. That is, a student must demonstrate English Writing competency, before being allowed to enroll in UNST 101: Communication. Similarly, a student must demonstrate Math competency before being permitted to enroll in a MATH course.
- IV. It was agreed that students will take one 3-credit course (UNST 126) that integrates Mathematical, Scientific and Logical approaches to building critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills.
- V. The committee next discussed the pilot course (UNST 151) being developed by the History faculty to meet the Global Studies foundation course. A proposal to require just one course for all students was not supported by the committee. It appears that the History Department would be able to offer five sections of UNST 151 with 250 students in each section using a team of 5 faculty members. This will constitute a 50% workload for the five faculty members.
- VI. Given the need for individual majors to require non-UNST courses in the first Freshman semester, it was agreed to distribute the Foundation courses over the entire Freshman year.
- VII. Peter Meyers pointed out that one of the learning objectives “Interact effectively with people from diverse cultures” will be difficult to teach and assess since it calls for action/performance. This needs to be resolved by the committee at a future meeting. He also recommended that a mapping of the UNST learning objectives to the Foundation Courses be developed and distributed to the Cluster committee leaders. This will help identify those learning objectives that the theme-based courses would need to focus on.
- VIII. Peter Meyers suggested adding Cluster Committee leaders to the Faculty roundtable. This was supported by all.
- IX. Aldridge noted that in planning the number of sections to be offered, we should remember to factor in a certain percentage of students who would need to repeat the courses.
- X. Several attendees expressed an immediate need for “catalog descriptions” of the new courses to facilitate the revision of 4-year degree programs. Sarin stated that these descriptions would not be available until after the Faculty Senate’s approval. However, he volunteered to prepare “working” catalog descriptions for degree programs to use with the understanding that they could change in spring 2005.
- XI. The next meeting of the full committee will be held on Jan 5, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

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DRAFT

UNST 100: Freshman Seminar

1 Credit, 1(1-0)

Catalog Description

This seminar will emphasize the role of the University Studies program and present a broad overview of the curriculum structure and rationale. The seminar will introduce students to a variety of interdisciplinary themes within the UNST program. Introductory discussions on critical thinking, communication skills, ethics, diversity, civic engagement, and globalization will be included. External speakers will be invited to lead discussions.

Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Rationale for UNST, overview of the UNST program
2	What is “interdisciplinary”, how is it different from “multidisciplinary”, why is it important to develop interdisciplinary thinking
3	History of A&T and role played in A&T in the region, state and the world
4	Overview of the FUTURES vision and strategic plan and how UNST fits in it
5	Discussion of course paper
6	Importance of global perspectives in education, opportunities for global studies
7	Critical thinking skills, what are they, how to develop them
8	Communication skills, why they are important, how to develop them throughout life
9	Diversity, respect for diverse thought, value of diverse teams
10	Ethics, code of ethics, resolving ethical dilemmas
11	Aggie Pride compact, student affairs handbook personal development and leadership skills
12	Using information technology and the library
13	University’s academic policies, advising process, role of various offices (registrar, financial aid, academic units, career placement, student affairs)
14	Open

Paper

The FCC is planning to allow the use of cell phones on airplanes. Discuss the technological, social, economic and security aspects of the proposed plan and take a position on the proposed idea: either support it or criticize it. Include at least 5 references and a justification for your position. The paper must be typed, 4-5 pages, one inch margins, Times New Roman 12 point font and single spaced. The paper is due on the last day of the semester.