
University Studies
North Carolina A&T State University
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Full Committee Meeting Sep 28, 2005 Minutes

The University Studies (UNST) Committee met on Wednesday Sep 28, 2005 in the Library Classroom at 10:00 AM. The following attended the meeting:

Last	First	Affiliation
Bell	Shirley	English
Brewington	Janice	Academic Affairs
Brown	Millicent	History
Callaway	Deborah	Education
Crawford	James	University Studies
Davis	Robert	Sociology and Social Work
Dunn	DeRome	Engineering
Graham	Tony	Technology
Graves	Joseph	University Studies
Hanner	Tracy	Agriculture
Kiel	Mark	Business
Lamb	Rita	Center for Student Success
Larson	Trent	Education
Nzewi	Emmanuel	Engineering
Rhodes	Craig	Technology
Roberto	Michael	History
Rojeski	Peter	Engineering
Sarin	Sanjiv	Engineering
Simkins	Scott	Academy of Teaching and Learning
Staley	Katrina	Mathematics
Williams	Jean	Library
Williams	Lea	Academic Affairs

- I. After brief introductions, the Chair designated the first order of business: Representatives from the Engineering School asked to place the Theme-based UNST elective course in the last semester of the senior year for their majors. They explained that their technical curriculum left no open spaces in the 4th-7th semesters and that the sequence of their engineering and required mathematics courses could not be altered without jeopardizing their program's accreditation. Several members of the committee suggested places to insert the UNST elective course in the 4th-7th semesters based upon the sample curriculum provided by the representatives of the Engineering School. One member asked if the engineering school itself might develop a course meeting the UNST requirements and some of their own goals. The Dean of University Studies and representatives from Academic Affairs stated that, in their experience, accreditation committees and officials have been becoming more flexible in their approach to curriculum reform. On a voice vote, the Engineering School's request was denied. By consent, the issue was referred to the Dean of University Studies. Dean Graves agreed to use his good offices to find a mutually satisfactory arrangement of the new curriculum. No specific report-back date was stated.

- II. The next issue was a request by the Education School to place in each UNST cluster a course on 'Personal Health' that satisfies a requirement for their majors. After discussion, it was decided on a voice vote to deny the request, but to encourage the Education school to develop and offer these courses (in conjunction with other disciplines) in as many clusters as it requires (to meet its student demand). Again the group referred the matter to the Dean of University Studies to co-ordinate the reform with the School of Education. No specific report-back date was stated. The representative of the English Department asked for a point of clarification: Who is in charge of content in UNST courses. The group developed a formula: Departments propose courses to the Dean of University Studies; Dean approves content. These courses are by their nature joint endeavors.
- III. The committee turned to the draft protocol for monitoring NC A&T student volunteer service under the new UNST regime. The Chairman shared the written comments of Drs. Peter and Karen Myers (neither present). They expressed concern that the program's resources and responsibilities had not been satisfactorily spelled-out, and feared the burden it might impose on faculty. Other members of the group asked for terms specifying on-campus, extra-curricular activities that would satisfy the requirement. Dean Graves, the co-author of the protocol, accepted the validity of the criticisms raised. He stressed that part of the duties of new faculty hired for UNST positions will be to superintend volunteer service. He also stated that once the protocol had been passed by the faculty senate, details of how to create and monitor service internships with both on and off-campus groups will be hammered out. The first cohort, freshmen entering in 2006, will establish the practice. Dr. Brown of History suggested that student input on the new program be solicited, especially in areas of current extra-curricular activities that meet UNST goals already. The changes to the protocol (recommended at a previous committee meeting) were then approved by consent.
- IV. The large package of courses and curricular changes which the committee had solicited from the schools and departments was reviewed and approved.
- V. As a closing note, Dr. Roberto of History and Global Studies stressed the importance of referring to University Studies as University Studies to signify the broadly integrative goals of our new approach to undergraduate education. He encouraged committee members to remind colleagues that the interdisciplinary regime set to be launched in August 2006 is not just a simple repackaging of General Studies requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Recorded by:
James Crawford