

**Council of Associate Deans (CAD) Minutes**  
**February 4, 2014**  
**226 Tigert Hall**

**Present:** Tammy Aagard, Sharon Bradley, Peggy Carr, Stephanie Hanson, Angela Lindner, Bernard Mair, Ed Schaefer, Joe Spillane, Horace Tucker, Theresa Vernetson, Andrew Wehle, Michael Weigold, Al Wysocki, and Marie Zeglen

**Absent:** Chris Janelle, David Pharies, Jen Day Shaw

**Guest:** Jaime Gresley (for Jen Day Shaw)

The meeting was called to order by Bernard Mair at 1:32 p.m.

**1. Minutes of the January Council of Associate Deans' Meeting**

The minutes from the January meeting were approved after modifications to item 5, bullet 11.

**2. UF Core General Education Project – Bernard Mair**

Mair gave an overview of the new General Education Program, which will go into effect Summer B 2015.

- The statewide core will consist of 15 credits (5 courses) from the 5 areas of composition, humanities, math, social sciences and natural sciences.
- The UF Grand Challenges core will consist of 9 credits (2 courses plus the Good Life).
- Since the State requires 6 credits of composition and the statewide core covers only 3 credits, there will be an additional 3 credit composition course.
- Since the Gordon Rule requires 6 credits of mathematics and the statewide core covers only 3 credits, there will be an additional 3 credit mathematics course.
- 3 credits of Gen Ed courses must also be Diversity.
- 3 credits of Gen Ed courses must also be International.
- The writing requirement is 24,000 words.

There are 30 prescribed Gen Ed credits in the 4 categories. The remaining 6 credits will come from any distribution across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

The majority of UF's 850 Gen Ed courses are not in the statewide core or the Grand Challenges core. As a result of the new program, enrollment in many of the Gen Ed courses will drop leading to the reduction in the inventory of Gen Ed courses.

The reduction of courses has a number of implications:

- At the University level, the role the Gen Ed committee will change. Instead of reviewing many new course proposals, Mair believes the committee will evolve into mainly assessment of the Gen Ed courses on a regular basis.
- At the college level, because the number of courses will be reduced, Mair expects faculty teaching those courses to have new assignments and some of the faculty to be teaching a Grand Challenges course.

### 3. UF Grand Challenges Courses

Mair envisions between 3-5 social sciences courses and 3-5 natural sciences courses for the Grand Challenges core. This will enable a broader participation of faculty with less need to retrain.

#### Discussion:

- There are a lot of logistical type questions such as how the courses would work in context of faculty assignments, what resources would or would not be provided. According to Mair, RCM revenue generated from the course would be separated from the regular college distribution budget. We will follow a model similar to that in the Good Life where funds from the course will first be used to meet the instructional needs, including TA stipends and waivers, faculty and course director compensation. Excess funds generated from the course will be distributed to the colleges participating in the course.
- Mair suggests that each course has its own course director and steering committee, or have one director for all social sciences courses and another director for all natural sciences courses. The course directors will report to the participating colleges' deans and a steering committee comprised of representatives from the colleges. It may also be feasible to have a single staff person to help with the clerical and administrative details for all of the courses.
- The course director will be responsible for hiring and training the teaching assistants, as well as scheduling the sections.
- Schaefer believes we can benefit from what Wolpert has already done with the Good Life.
- There was some discussion regarding the feasibility of having a single course for each of these areas instead of the proposed 3-5 in each area, similar to the single Good Life course in the humanities. Mair stated that the proposed system provides several benefits including: exposing students to the "found" majors that could not be covered in sufficient depth in a single course; the single course would have to be so broad that no topic could be covered in sufficient depth to ensure that it meets the requirements for any disciplinary focus; a broad single course prevents broad participation from a cross-section of faculty creating problems with finding suitable instructors.
- Proposal Information:
  - The proposal deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - The proposal needs to include what the course entails, what topics are expected to be covered, what colleges are involved, what Gen Ed designations, how the course will be offered and developed.
  - The budget portion is for the course development, not for the budget for the implementation of the program. The final proposal will need to include the budget for implementing the program such as TAs stipends, waiver and the course director's compensation.
  - The course should be up and running in academic year 2015-2016.
  - There may be additional resources to pilot the course in fall 2014 or spring 2015.
  - Mair will work with the group if the course does not meet the Gen Ed criteria.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.