

Report of the University Studies Council to the Faculty Senate 2010

Prepared by Mitch Cruzan, Chair

Council: Darrell Brown, Sharon Carstens, Mitch Cruzan, Karen DeVoll, Ann Marie Fallon, Harrell Fletcher, Greg Jacob, Yves Labissiere, Tim Sheard, Bob Schroeder, Tom Seppalainen, Michael Taylor, Annmarie Trimble, and Linda Walton. **Student representative:** Monica Valencia. **Ex-officio:** Jeff Gerwing (Cluster Coordinator) Sukhwant Jhaj, Shawn Smallman

The University Studies Council has met biweekly for the 2009-1010 academic year. With fifteen members it has not been possible to identify one time period when it was possible for the entire committee to meet. To accommodate the entire committee we have alternated meeting times so every individual has the opportunity to attend at least once per month.

The primary focus of the council this academic year has been the refinement of procedures for cluster reorganization, which was initiated in our final report of the 2008-2009 academic year. The goal of this report is to update the Faculty Senate on progress made towards cluster realignment and to provide information on modifications to the cluster development process that have occurred since our annual report in June of 2009.

1. Modifications to the cluster realignment process.
 - a. New clusters will be approved and implemented as they are developed by faculty groups.
 - b. The timeline for cluster realignment has been adjusted to accommodate the development of new clusters by groups of faculty. The council will continue to encourage new cluster development and will reassess the progress of cluster realignment in the spring of 2011.
2. Progress on cluster realignment.
 - a. Proposals for two new clusters (“Global Perspectives” and “Interpreting the Past”) have been reviewed and approved by the council.
 - b. Coordinators for several existing clusters are reviewing the new cluster requirements to determine whether they need to make any modifications.
 - c. One cluster (“Professions”) that did not have unique courses associated with it was removed.
 - d. Lists of cluster courses have been generated to assist faculty working on the development of new clusters.
 - e. Clarifications have been made by the council on several UNST policies that are relevant to clusters:
 - i. Cluster coordinators and departments are encouraged to reexamine the content and student populations being served by courses listed at the 400 level. It is the consensus of the council that these courses should be reformulated and renumbered to the 300 level or removed from clusters. The council suggests that these changes take place within the next three years.
 - ii. Courses listed as 400/500 will have their cluster designations removed in time for inclusion in the 2011 bulletin.

- iii. In 2006 the council recommended that SING courses function as gateway courses for the disciplines. To facilitate the development of gateway SINGs in the new Global Perspectives cluster the council has approved cross-listed UNST/INTL courses to be taken under either prefix as a SING.
- iv. All clusters will be reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure that cluster courses on the approved cluster list are offered at least every other year. Total course offerings in a cluster need to average at least 20 sections, or capacity for 700 students, per term. A minimum of 6 sections of SING, or capacity for 210 students, need to be offered per cluster each year. Clusters that do not meet these capacity requirements will be de-listed.
- v. Cluster coordinators, chairs and other relevant curricular stakeholders will be notified of these policy changes.