

## CHASS Undergraduate Committee Report (April 2012)

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In December 2011/January 2012, the college evaluated the new approach to directing and administering undergraduate academic programs in CHASS begun in August 2011 (i.e., integration of two committees -- undergraduate courses and curricula committee and the Directors of Undergraduate Programs – into one committee). The consensus was that the integrated approach was providing increased effectiveness and some increased efficiencies and that it should be continued. Placing oversight of courses and curricula along with undergraduate academic policies and practices under one committee has allowed for regular and pro-active consultation with departmental representatives, which has, in turn, ensured that CHASS faculty members have sufficient opportunities to provide feedback about policy changes and other proposals being put forth at the university level.

This semester, the committee has accomplished the following:

- Continued to streamline the review processes related to course and curricular actions while at the same time increasing college level support for individuals involved in developing course and curricular actions;
- Increased the use of consent agenda to expedite the review/approval of certain kinds of course and curricular actions.

The committee has reviewed 22 course and curricular actions this semester. One of these actions includes making permanent the 2-credit First-Year Experience Course that was piloted as an exploratory special topics course in Fall 2011. The course serves two primary purposes: 1) to introduce new CHASS students to disciplinary inquiry in our college by engaging them in examination of the similarities and differences between different disciplinary approaches to a particular topic, and 2) to provide guidance to students regarding managing the transition to college (e.g., time management, goal setting, campus student services/resources, diversity).

- Provided feedback and participated in a pilot test of a new on-line intra-campus transfer tool being developed by the Registrar's Office. The university plans to move to this tool beginning in Fall 2012 and the CHASS Undergraduate Committee has provided significant feedback regarding the system.
- Participated in a university-wide review of courses not taught in the last five years for potential deletion from the university catalog. Of the 62 CHASS courses on the initial list, 37 went forward for deletion.
- Developed an appropriate approach to determining how and whether students may earn minors administered by their major departments;
- Discussed ways to better connect university honors and scholars program students to departmental honors programs.
- Formed a subcommittee to review the Arts & Letters requirement and the courses that populate the list. That work will likely take place during the summer.