

Intercollegiate Coordination Panel  
Meeting Minutes

9 March 2001

John Allard, Kevin Donnelly, Stan Elsea, Maureen Herspring, Gerry Reeck, Candice Pennbacker, Karen Pense, and Diane Tuinstra were present at the 9 March 2001 meeting. Nancy Mosier attended via phone. Diane Tuinstra took the minutes.

## PHASE II ASSESSMENT

Diane Tuinstra provided an update on the progress of the Undergraduate General Education Task Force concerning Phase II. The Task Force has met with Kurt Gunnell in Assessment and are hoping to begin a pilot assessment group for this semester. They hope to receive the results of the surveys, which will be distributed to the heads of departments, the instructors, and students, by the beginning of May.

ICCP had concerns about the assessment forms and a letter was sent to Tom Herald and James Goddard. These concerns were addressed in the Task Force's meeting with Kurt Gunnell.

Questions were raised at the meeting about whether ICCP would get feedback from those involved in the assessment process, and whether they would be given a list of the courses in order to contact the instructors to determine how well the assessment process works.

## UGE COURSES

Vicki Clegg was unable to attend the meeting, but she sent an email in which she indicated that in her meetings with department heads, they expressed a lack of incentive on the part of instructors to get UGE approval for their courses.

There is a diversity of experience among the colleges regarding UGE. Several colleges are having little or no problems with students finding and taking the correct number and type of UGE courses. These colleges have had to make a minimal number of waivers for students who will be graduating.

However, the College of Architecture is having serious problems with UGE courses. Their students are in a five-year program and are having problems getting enough upper-level UGE courses. These problems are caused by prerequisite for upper-level courses that have UGE approval, and difficulties enrolling, since most 4<sup>th</sup> year students are overseas or on off-campus internships and by the time they are able to enroll, the upper-level UGE courses are fully enrolled.

The College of Engineering is in the process of modifying distribution problems, which have occurred mainly with 300-level courses.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT FLYER

It has come to the attention of ICCP that an Advanced Placement flyer has been distributed which contains false and misleading information regarding UGE credit, telling students that Advanced Placement courses can be applied to the university's UGE requirements. While Advanced Placement courses, as transfer credit, could reduce the total number of UGE credits required, it was felt that the reduction of UGE in this manner was not the same as the implication in the flyer that AP courses would count directly for UGE credit.

It was decided that this matter will be placed in Vicki Clegg's hands. If the flyer is not widely distributed and has little impact, then it will not need to be changed. However, if the flyer will be widely used, then this is a problem.

### STUDY ABROAD PROPOSAL

Maureen Herspring distributed a proposal from Susanne Siepl-Coates regarding the KSU policy on University General Education as it applies to study abroad, internships, and community service programs. This proposal was identical to the one presented the previous week by Siepl-Coates to the Undergraduate General Education Task Force. The purpose of presenting the proposal in its current form was to get input from ICCP concerning possible obstacles and problems.

The question was raised as to whether this proposal would cover only study abroad programs which originated through Kansas State, or if it would also apply to programs which were administered by other universities but endorsed by Kansas State University.

One problem could arise regarding whether the students would receive UGE credit for the courses for which they were enrolled or if the UGE credit would be given for the "out-of-class" experience of dealing with another culture. It was felt by some that it would be better to give UGE credit independent of the validated courses which come back from the foreign university because of the time factor sometimes required for validation, and because the courses taken at the non-American universities may be within the student's own major. Also, many of the courses for which the students enroll abroad are taught in English by professors from other American universities, in which case the course material would not necessarily be any different from a transfer course taken at another American university.

One possible solution might be to reduce the number of UGE credits required for graduation, in the same way that transfer credits from other universities reduces the UGE requirements. If this method were used, it should have a different formula for UGE credit reduction than regular transfer courses.

It was felt that whatever happens with the proposal, it should be simple. UGE is already considered to be a complicated requirement by many and it would be best not to make it more complicated.

Questions were raised regarding the length of time that would need to be spent abroad to earn the UGE credit. Weeks? A semester? It was suggested that to earn the UGE credit, the program which takes the student abroad would need to have a study or work component, and that travel or study tours should not count for UGE credit.

Most committee members who expressed an opinion on the subject had reservations about approving community service programs for UGE credit. Questions were raised as to whether international community service programs could be included in the proposal. Also, if these types of programs were approved, would this lead to students seeking UGE approval for other experiences abroad, such as time spent in the Peace Corps? It was felt that if community service programs were included in the proposal, they should be limited to those which originated through Kansas State University.

Because internships vary broadly among the colleges, it was thought that it might be best to have each internship course submitted individually for UGE approval. However, a potential problem with that approach is that internships are within the students' majors, making them ineligible for UGE approval. Concerns were expressed that internships in some colleges do not expand the students' experiences beyond their major.

ICCP members believed that the final proposal should go through ICCP as well as the Undergraduate General Education Task Force before it was presented to the full Faculty Senate.

## DARS

Stan Elsea brought up a matter as requested by Rich Gallagher. It was brought to the attention of the ICCP that DARS reports are very confusing.

The question was raised as to whether it would be possible to get a DARS report on UGE credits in order to determine where possible problems might lie.

The meeting was adjourned.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE APRIL 13, 2001, FROM NOON TO 1 PM IN 301 CALVIN.