

Intercollegiate Coordination Panel
Meeting Minutes

13 April 2001

Diane Barker, Kevin Donnelly, John Allard, Lynn Ewanow, Jan Wissman, Richard Gallagher, Karen Pence, Stan Elsea, Vicki Clegg, and Diane Tuinstra were present at the April 13, 2001 meeting. Nancy Mosier attended via phone. Diane Tuinstra took the minutes.

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the March 9, 2001, meeting were approved as distributed.

PHASE II UPDATE

The Phase II Pilot Assessment is running behind schedule and may not begin until Fall 2001. Vicki Clegg offered to find out more about the status of the pilot assessment. The ICCP decided not to do anything proactive until the Panel finds out what the UGE Task Force is doing.

STATUS OF 300-LEVEL COURSES

The consensus among the ICCP members is that there are not enough 300-level courses approved for UGE credit. Students are having problems finding 300-level courses to enroll in. The colleges have reacted to this in a variety of ways. In Engineering, electives are to be UGE courses, Arts & Sciences has abandoned the categories of course distribution. Reasons given for the lack of 300-level UGE courses were that the approval process is cumbersome, individual faculty are concerned that the enrollment for their classes would rise, and some courses approved for UGE credit are taught only once every couple of years. In the case of the College of Business, they will not request UGE approval for some of their courses because they would not have enough faculty to handle the increase in enrollment.

The question was raised as to why two 300-level courses are required. Originally, it was because it was desired that the UGE courses be taken throughout the four college years, and it was assumed that juniors and seniors would take 300-level courses. The question was raised that if UGE was intended to bring breadth to the student's college education, is the requirement for two 300-level courses necessary, especially if some of the UGE 300-level courses have prerequisites? It was pointed out that many of the course requirements within the individual colleges already

promote breadth in the educational experience.

It was pointed out that UGE is more complicated than it needs to be, and that more than the 300-level course requirements need to be fixed. It was suggested that one alternative to the UGE system could be to require General Education courses of all students, similar to the current College of Arts & Science college requirements.

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS PROPOSAL

One potential problem with the proposal was brought up at the meeting. The proposal suggests giving a UGE credit waiver only for students who register for credit for an internship or study abroad. A problem may arise when student sign up for zero-credit internships which are taken for academic recognition.

Some members felt that it would be better if the students were given actual UGE credit rather than a waiver for the courses taken. The question was raised as to why the UGE credit was not tied to the credits students receive for the courses they took for credit. Some members also suggested that the proposal to give UGE credit/waiver for internships could be problematic.

OTHER ITEMS

The next meeting will be Friday, May 18, the Friday after finals. Next year's chair will be chosen at that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

THE NEXT MEETING IS FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2001, NOON TO 1 P.M., CALVIN 301.