

Minutes: University Studies Faculty Roundtable
7:35am Friday, Sept. 26 and 7:35am Friday, Oct. 3, 2008

I. Introductions of 2008-2009 Members

Mary Uzochukwu (School of Nursing); Lory O. Floyd (School of Education); Michael Roberto and Thomas C. Redd (Arts & Sciences); Bala Ram and Derome Dunn (College of Engineering); Marka B. Fleming (Business); James Crawford and Dr. Robert Drake (University Studies). Dr. Phil Rubio and Dean Joseph L. Graves attending to facilitate UNST divisional participation in a non-voting capacity. School of Technology and School of Agriculture not represented.

A point of procedure was raised by Dr. Graves that voting quorum was eight members (half of a committee made up of two representatives from each of the eight undergraduate academic units of NCA&TSU). This quorum was met and exceeded. Deliberation of pending cluster and course proposals ensued, each presented to group by Dr. Rubio.

II. Education and Society Cluster Proposal

Dr. Drake reported that current proposal reflects corrections from Spring 2008 submission, ie: removal of 400 level courses; adding 200 level courses.

Dr. Roberto observed that this cluster meets the interdisciplinary spirit of UNST. It has two schools (A&S/Education) cooperating in general core curriculum.

Dr. Redd and Dr. Floyd asked for a few clarifications of table showing courses in proposal and a reminder of existing clusters.

Dr. Roberto moved to approve cluster proposal; Dr. Dunn seconded. Cluster approved by unanimous vote.

III. Cluster-Level Course Proposals

CIEN 212: "Fundamentals of Environmental Engineering," proposed by Stephanie Luster-Teasley for inclusion in the Energy and Environment Cluster.

Dr. Ram asked if lab courses appropriate for general education. Dr. Graves said absolutely.

Drake asked that all proposals have course goals on syllabus.

Dr. Roberto commends proposal on this score.

Ram moved to approve; Roberto seconded. Course passed on unanimous vote.

[Revisit: Crawford suggests cross-listing course as UNST 3XX to alert general core students to recommended/implied prerequisites.

Dr. Redd notes contradictions on this in proposal.

Drake stated that Roundtable must recommend to Senate Curriculum Committee that a policy on prerequisites in the core clusters be made: 200 levels no prerequisites; 300 may have prerequisites.]

UNST 232 : "Writing About War," offered by Jenny Noller for the Community, Conflict and Society cluster.

Rubio praised detail of course conception, but needs some work.

Roberto criticized assigned texts in light of course goals; wants more 'substance,' ie: history, political science, or International Relations; wants political-economy addressed as cause of war.

Ram countered that readings could be amended.

Dr. Graves suggested sending back to Noller with recommendations for improvement.

Redd added that proposal needs more specific assessment mechanisms.

Roberto and Floyd emphasized that Faculty Senate approval hinges on having means of assessment clearly presented.

Dr. Drake moved to send back with specific criticisms and ask for a quick turn around for next week; Crawford seconded. Unanimous vote to send back to sponsor for amendment.

UNST 233: “Uncovering Truth: The Modern Documentary,” offered by Jenny Noller for the Community, Conflict and Society cluster.

Ram and Graves discussed assessment, need more specificity of implied UNST procedures as developed by Division faculty.

Ram says both of Jenny Noller’s proposals will capture interest of students

Roberto said 233 proposal is better shape compared to 232.

Roberto motioned to send back with request for changes; Crawford seconded. Unanimous vote to send back requesting quick amendments.

UNST XXX: “Contemporary Issues in Bio-Based Resources,” proposed by John Emrani for Energy, Environment and Society.

Group mulled proposal in silence. General comments on appropriateness of topic and treatment bubbled to surface.

Crawford questioned lack of course number. Prompted general discussion of distinction between 200 and 300 level class.

Dr. Graves suggested that no prerequisites at all for 200; 300 level *might* have some prerequisites.

Roberto asked for clearer communication to faculty and students; Drake said we want to clarify policy.

Group revisited CIEN 212 proposal (see above) in light of uncertainty over 200 versus 300 nomenclature.

[9:41 Drs. Fleming and Roberto exited for class; no quorum present; 9:46 Meeting adjourned due to lack of quorum. Panel scheduled to resume work on Friday, Oct. 3, 7:30am, Hines Hall 304.]

[Committee reconvened 7:37, Oct. 3, 2008; all of previous members in attendance with addition of Ms. Terrell Bryan (School of Nursing).]

Dr. Drake raised a point of procedure on quorum: that, because no names have come from Colleges of Technology and Agriculture, the actual voting quorum is lower than eight. Group, numbering 10 voting members, agreed.

Dr. Rubio added two new course proposals to the queue. Dr. Graves observed that these courses supported the University’s participation in Project Kaleidoscope, a national effort to boost science in the undergraduate core curriculum. Dr. Drake praised “PK” initiative, having worked with it before.

Dr. Drake moved to speed approval of pending courses. Group agreed on expedience. No formal motion adopted, but committee noted impending timetable for Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee approval and full Senate approval.

Dr. Rubio reported favorably on both of Jenny Noller’s courses after revisions.

UNST 323 [redux]:

Rubio reported that sponsor’s changes showed improved readings, assessments, and assignments.

Dr. Roberto praised Noller's proposal, and moved to accept. Crawford seconded. Unanimous approval of UNST 232.

UNST 233 [redux] Noller's issues noted in deliberations of Sept. 26 addressed and changed. Ram moved to approve; Drake seconded. Unanimous approval.

UNST XXX : Global Leadership and International Service," sponsored by Agye Boakye-Boaten for Community, Conflict and Society cluster.

Roberto called course impressive and pointed out need for a Global Learning cluster building on existing Global Studies Certificate.

Roberto moved for approval; Drake seconded. Unanimous approval.

LIBS 302: "Media Analysis," proposed by Chad Rohrbacher for Community, Conflict and Society.

Graves asked if Dean Michael Plater (A&S) has certified this LIBS class; without letter from Dr. Beverly Grier (director of Liberal Studies) and/or Plater showing a commitment that course will be offered, proposal should be tabled.

Roberto noted NYTimes and similar readings already accessible via BlackBoard; asked that candidate include specific reading requirements in media work at center of course.

Roberto moved to table and inform instructor to make amendments; several voices seconded. Unanimous vote to table pending sponsor's amendments.

UNST 301: "Evolutionary Medicine," proposed by Joseph Graves for Health, Lifestyles and Society cluster.

Graves remarked that *no* evolutionary biology courses have been taught at A&T since 2005 when he had taught a graduate level class; now he seeks to present subject to undergraduates via the UNST cluster.

Roberto noted absence of course description in proposal.

Graves supplemented proposal with course description.

Ram moved to approve. Crawford seconded. Unanimous approval.

UNST 2XX [redux] : John Emrani: Contemporary Issues in Bio-Based Resources.

Dr. Redd sensed that there are implied prerequisites.

Dr. Ram moved to make it a 2XX, Dr. Drake seconded. Unanimous approval of course as a 200 level offering.

PHIL 265: "World Religions," proposed by Karen Hornsby to add to offerings in the Community and Conflict cluster.

Roberto called syllabus thorough; not history but contemporary approach.

Rubio praised form of proposal; course sponsor's forte is assessment and classroom performance. Added this ambitious course would attract many students.

Ms. Bryan commended use of online activities.

Mrs. Uzochukwu raised question about online exams in a face to face course. Prompts discussion of propriety of reliance on such exams.

Crawford moved for approval; Dunn seconded. Unanimous approval.

UNST 234: "Weather and Climate Studies," proposed by Keith Schimmel for Energy and Environment Cluster [Note change of number to candidate from 232 to 234].

Rubio reported favorably on presentation.

Graves stated that this course satisfies a University commitment under a National Science Foundation grant.

Rubio recommended approval. Uzochukwu seconded. Unanimous approval.

NURS 306: “Healthcare in an Aging Society”, O’Conner, for the Health, Lifestyle and Society cluster.

Ram raised question about previous 6XX designation as possible SACs red flag; Bryan explained it as procedural mistake.

Graves commented that this course complements other cluster courses.

Rubio moved to approve. Drake seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.

HPED 224: “Globalization and Diversity,” Rottich, for the Health Lifestyle and Society Cluster.

Rubio reports favorably.

Drake moved approval, Ram seconded. Unanimous approval.

ENG 432: “Writing for the Health Professional,” submitted by Jane Gibson Brown/Veloisa Marsh for the Health, Lifestyles and Society cluster.

Course needs A&S certification.

Proposal needs more complete outline, specific assessments, and statement of UNST course objectives on syllabus.

Drake moved to table. Dunn seconded. Unanimous vote to table with stipulations to sponsor.

[Several members had to leave for class at 8:40]

Dr. Drake moved to adjourn. Dr. Dunn seconded. Adjournment by consent. Next meeting not scheduled.

[jgc]

UNST Faculty Roundtable Meeting
January 29, 2009
4:00 pm, Hodgkin 208

Agenda

- 4:00 Presentation and Discussion: “The Theme-Based Clusters—What were they intended to look like? What should they be doing?” Led by Drs. Bob Davis, Sanjiv Sarin, and Scott Simkins
- 4:45 Discussion of Cluster Assessment with specific topics—
- What else do we need to assess?
 - Other possible issues:
 - 400 level courses
 - How can we get more faculty participation?
 - “Topics Courses” for faculty who want to teach their pet course without the hassle of getting a course approved
 - Moving Forward
- 5:15 Close

Minutes Faculty Roundtable Meeting 1/29/09

Attendance:

Lumpkin, Dunn, Graves, Crawford, Roberto, Ram,
Drake presiding. Drs. Bob Davis, Sajiv Sarin, and Scott Simkins, guests.

Presentation and Discussion-- The Theme-Based Clusters: What were intended to look like?
What should they be doing?

Sarin: Prior to UNST, students asked why take general curriculum courses. Not been updated for many years. Faculty engaged in workshops & methods of putting intentional instruction in basic courses. Give students a sense of why taking disciplinary courses.

The main innovation was to 'cluster' general electives in a way that had a relationship with one another. The goal was to establish learning communities around cluster themes that involved a variety of disciplines, working on a common set of problems or questions.

Davis: Faculty wanted to move away from distributional system to give coherence. Great concept. Problem is that we have not moved beyond the initial basic set of clusters. Few additions on each existing group, no new groups added. "I never dreamed that in 2009 that we would be looking at primarily the same clusters and primarily the same courses." Faculty Roundtable is charged with process of monitoring, building, and revising courses.

Simkins: Concern was that there were not enough courses in clusters and students can not actually take them. Portland State model was target; they have greater coherence than we have been able to secure. Current courses are pragmatic starting point, but intended to 'sunset' and be replaced with a more refined set. This has not happened.

After guests spoke, the meeting adjourned without Roundtable discussion.

[jgc]

UNST Faculty Roundtable Meeting
February 12, 2009
4:00 pm, Hodgkin 208

Agenda

- 4:00 Theme-based Clusters (Con't from last meeting)
General discussion on criteria for evaluating (and changing) existing clusters
- 4:30 Break out sessions by sub-committee cluster/chair
- Community, Conflict, and Society: Dr. Michael Roberto
 - Science, Technology, and Society: Dr. Bala Ram
 - Energy, Environment, and Society: Dr. James Crawford
 - Health, Lifestyles, and Society: Dr. Marka Flemming
- 5:00 Close

University Studies Faculty Roundtable Meeting
 March 12, 2009

Representative	Unit	Signature
Terry Bryan	School of Nursing	
E. Dean Gilbert	School of Technology	
Bala Ram	School of Engineering	
Marka Fleming	School of Business & Econ.	
Laurey O. Floyd	School of Education	
Michael Roberto	College of Arts & Sciences	
Mary Uzochukwu	School of Nursing	
Chantel Lumpkin	School of Agriculture	
Derome Dunn	School of Engineering	
Betty F. Chapman	School of Business & Econ.	
Marihelen Glass	School of Agriculture	
Thomas Redd	College of Arts & Sciences	
Robert Drake	UNST	
James Crawford	UNST	

DRAKE reports on meeting with Provost Thompson. Supports Roundtable view. Provost pledged to investigate process by which the James proposal to exempt Physics students from UNST 130.

ROBERTO concurs on procedural problems in the case. Provost is sympathetic. A&S raised 130 proposal: Plater said no decision had been made; suggested that if this exemption was excepted and that there would be others. If exemptions do occur, then workload will come back to A&S faculty without resources.

Question of divided loyalties. Will not sabotage.

CRAWFORD baffled by opposition. ROBERTO said that Provost speculated that leadership needed to mandate the UNST curriculum.

DRAKE: UNST has freed many departments; teaching resources and class size can be adjusted for the better.

REDD: Critics will come back. If you have an 'abundance' of Analytical Reasoning skills, you can take other UNST courses.

D: Stem students start out a little higher in AR skills, not significantly different than rest of population. After the course, STEM students are significantly higher than avg. Accounting students progress most dramatically.

ROBERTO: All Freshmen are equal. STEM professors are claiming their students are superior.

REDD: Goal is stable base. 'Better background' students should not be forced to take 130.

DUNN:

We need more positive faculty input on UNST. More inclusiveness than the existing committees. We need to assess faculty and students.

RAM: There is no end to the exemptions. We are charged with improving cluster courses and improving existing courses. The exemptions issue is a matter for the Deans and Provost.

REDD: We, the roundtable, need to guide the curriculum, not leave it administrators.

RAM: We should be working on the clusters and assess performance.

ROBERTO: At meeting of strategic planning committee set up by Chancellor, building on UNC Tomorrow, out of FUTURES came UNST. Create interdisciplinary education at A&T. It starts at the foundation level. The James initiative flies in the face of this charge.

RAM: Having different sections for the disciplines is also against the principle.

REDD: Course names defy interdisciplinary.

DRAKE: Content based courses have different objectives than skill-based courses like in the foundations.

RAM: UNST as chartered is a mandate. We can monitor and improve, not replace or substitute.

DUNN: For the roundtable to state a mandate will alienate faculty.

CHAPMAN : There is no support from the administration. We need to demonstrate its positive aspects.

DUNN: Several administrators have had a hand in this. There has never been a majority buy-in.

DRAKE: Provost knows that A&T lacks a culture of evidence.

ROBERTO: Evidence is even more. Plater says clusters are a failure. Courses not offered. Roberto countered with 2 new clusters. A&S instrumental in this.

RAM: We need to give the university time to implement such a change in the undergraduate core curriculum.

DRAKE: Outside reviewers know that this is true elsewhere; but that climate is worst here.

CRAWFORD: Enough! Why do we have to be sensitive to others,' they haven't been fair to us.

ROBERTO: We need the Provost to write a letter endorsing UNST and asking his assistance in getting support from rest of university.

REDD: Align courses in clusters that already exist.

RAM: A letter will get a negative rather than a positive response. Perhaps after the external review we could have some kind of push for cooperation.

DRAKE: Reviewers will be fair and meet with many across campus, including Roundtable.

RAM: We are the committee to supervise quality. Not find exemptions.

DRAKE: Let's all try to make connections in our own colleges.

Next time let's turn to the subcommittee work on examining the clusters.

ROBERTO: Just because we put courses in a cluster doesn't mean they are going to be offered. Scarce resources mean they won't be taught.

DUNN: There is an obligation to service Gen'l ed, but there has not been a culture of this.

DRAKE: We need to let 400 courses in because we need the courses.

REDD:

D: We need a plan to sunset the 400 level courses in the clusters.

BRYAN: How did 400 level get in?

Roberto: Did we approve this? 400 level courses get more students now that there are fewer electives. Examples from History Dept.

UNST Faculty Roundtable Meeting
March 12, 2009
4:00 pm, Hodgkin 208

Agenda

- 4:00 Discussion of the meeting with the Provost regarding the Dr. James proposal
- 4:15 Discussion of Dr. Dunn's email
- 4:35 Discussion on the appropriateness of 400 level courses in the clusters
- 5:00 Decision on when to have sub-committee work done
- 5:05 Close

UNST Faculty Roundtable Minutes
Apr. 23, 2009

Drake Announcements:

Dean of University Studies will only attend if a specific issue merits, or an invitation is extended.

Removal of inappropriate cluster courses.

Chem100/110; Math 111/112; and Biol 100, PHYS 105.

Roberto: Let's use the Philosophy, Religion & Society as a model for what to take out of the other clusters. Let's undo the illegality. Fleming & Chapman concur.

Redd: Will there be enough courses when courses are removed? We should not expose ourselves to not having enough courses in place.

Crawford: We have to clear the Division's exposure from Faculty Senate on these courses in the clusters.

Dunn: Is the course offering issue the concern of the Roundtable?

Roberto: When are the other units going to take responsibility for delivering them? We may have to go the Provost. The problem of non-cooperation has been getting worse. Chairs are responsible.

Roberto: I move that we remove the set from the clusters. Seconded by Dr. Gilbert.

Redd: Organ removal; having a machine ready.

Vote: 9-1 Approval.

Roberto: History 435 is required of majors. He wants to make it topical course that can appeal to non-majors. He suggests a cap at 50 enrollment rather than 25.

Crawford: 400 policy must be made.

Redd: What are the policies on a cross-listed classes? Can a course be both 400 and 300? Could there be different requirements and different assessments?

Glass: Her department has 600/500 different syllabi and requirements.

Redd: The cross-listing section can be a stop gap.

Dunn: Faculty senate will frown on this.

Crawford: Ask departments develop 200 level classes to replace 400.

Redd: They will resist.

Lumpkin: SACs requires numbers and skill level correspond.

Roberto: We are captive to the first semester of the next year. We should go to our respective colleges and report changes and ask for courses that will foot the bill. Some may already be offering some. They will accommodate us.

Roberto: Attempted move to remove all 400 clusters out of the four clusters. Redd & Chapman second.

Redd: It may be too much of a shock to do both.

Lumpkin: Agrees with Redd. Too much. Faculty kickback will be great.

Drake: A&T has lowest core curriculum requirements of any in country.

Dunn: We used to allow double-counts; now we can not.

Redd: Clarifies that this is a University requirement.

Roberto: The 400 level courses are on the books, but not being taught. There are perhaps only 5 courses that matter.

Our job is to set things straight; the university needs to bring things up to speed.

Ram: Several courses are appropriate; we need to change the number. Don't close the door on the courses.

Redd: We are trying to decide the policy. It would be a good step to have an invitation to do 200.

Ram: We should alert faculty to the time this takes affect.

Dunn & Roberto: There is lead time for the change to take place for the incoming freshman class of 2010 (2015).

Vote: 9-1.

Ram & Drake: We can invite and explain changes in the fall, esp. a UNST class in each cluster on Topics In...[Energy, Health, Environment, etc.]

Drake: Are there any other classes that members think should be removed.

Fleming: Remove HPED 221 because it hasn't been offered.

Lumpkin: HEFS 135 is really FCS 135. Clarification needs to be made in the Bulletin and UNST website.

Dunn: We could encourage them to be taught.

Drake closes meeting. At 5:07.

