Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Standards (CUCAS) 
Report to the University Senate 
2013-2014 Academic Year

The committee consisted of the following members: Lourdes Cruz (Registrar), Jerry Wilcox (Director of Institutional Research & Assessment), Jess House (Dean, Professional Studies), Missy Alexander (Dean, Arts & Sciences), James Donegan (Interim Dean, Ancell School of Business), Dan Goble (Dean, Visual & Performing Arts), Nicholas Grecco (Arts and Sciences), Jessica Eckstein (Arts and Sciences), Anthony Markert, chair (Ancell), Larry Immohr (Ancell), Barbara Piscopo (Prof. Studies), David Smith (Visual & Performing Arts), Timothy Wiggins (Visual & Performing Arts), Robert Whittemore (at large) and Catherine Rice (at large).

All student member seats went unfilled.

One meeting had to be run as a nonvoting informational meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Each year, CUCAS appoints a CUCAS representative to serve on the General Education Committee. This year’s representative was Barbara Piscopo.

CUCAS meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in SC 202. CUCAS had a total of seven meetings this past year. The September meeting was canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

Following is a summary of the major CUCAS activities during the past year. A full list of proposals approved can be obtained from the Provost’s Administrative Approvals reports and the detail of all proposals presented to CUCAS can be reviewed on the Curriculum Development System.

University-wide proposals

Make-Up Exam Policy. CUCAS reviewed again the policy it had approved in the prior year and agreed to send it on to the other governance committees as originally approved. The Senate subsequently amended and approved the proposal.

Tiered Competency-Based General Education Curriculum Framework. Throughout the year there was much debate at each CUCAS meetings regarding the General Education Committee’s proposals. The framework was approved by CUCAS at their March 27th meeting.
Align Course Transfer Policy. Approval of a revised proposal to align course transfer policy with other Connecticut State Universities so that WCSU students may transfer courses with a grade of “C-“ or better from other institutions.

Curriculum Development System. For each meeting of the year (through the April meeting) an agenda call was made for interested parties to present ideas and proposals for changes in the Curriculum Development System. This topic was addressed at every CUCAS meeting. Much of the discussion and debate can be found in the CUCAS minutes. The chair represented CUCAS at meetings and in discussions with the UPBC, Graduate Council and the Senate. Proposed changes to the Curriculum Development System spreadsheet were made by many parties and incorporated into a final document approved by the Senate at their May 2014 meeting.

CUCAS proposed that workshops be available for faculty for the use of the Curriculum Development System. An email requesting these workshops was sent to the Provost.

In addition, technical changes were made to the Curriculum Development System throughout the year to enhance its usability.

Faculty Developed Courses. A faculty member asked that CUCAS consider adding individual Faculty Developed Studies courses to the SharePoint Curriculum system. CUCAS unanimously decided that this was not necessary and that the current form for faculty developed courses (on the website) should be used.

Other notable department proposals are below:

Aancell School of Business

Discussions were held regarding the use of a BUS designation for business courses to be taught by several business departments. Although it was determined that this was possible (and BOR approval is not needed), the Ancell School would have to work this out with their departments and insure that their bylaws accommodate this. In the meantime, one new course designated MKT 3XX—Global Environment of Business was approved. If other Ancell departments want to teach this course, they could present a proposal to CUCAS for cross-listing the course for their respective departments. The Curriculum Development system was modified to accommodate a total of five departments being cross-listed for the same course.

Arts and Sciences

Chemistry. Approval of more laboratory instruction time for Organic Chemistry 1 & 2.
Communication. New course approved with the title of: Meditation, Self-Awareness and Communication.


Mathematics. Discussed the concept of embedding remedial material into courses to comply with the recent Public Act 1240. A four-credit MAT 100P course was developed to include the content of MAT 100 along with remedial math content. CUCAS agreed that the “P” suffix would designate such embedded courses and that such courses would satisfy the same prerequisite as the three-credit non-embedded course would.

Also, four new math courses for education majors were approved.

Philosophy. The Philosophy Department is busy getting ready for the new Tiered Competency-Based General Education Curriculum Framework by creating many new courses that anticipate these gen ed changes. This year CUCAS approved eight new PHI and two new HUM courses.

Psychology. A proposal for an Internship course in psychology was approved. There was a spirited debate about all of the internship courses at the university with differing requirements and standards competing for the same internship spaces at organizations in the area.

Professional Studies

Education & Educational Psychology. Due to changes in the state education department requirements, it was necessary to get EPY 204 approved by the General Education Committee as a gen ed course and change their gen ed requirement from PSY 100 to EPY 204. Twelve related elementary education programs were also changed.

CUCAS also approved an Ed & Ed Psy framework proposal entitled: Partnership for Preparation of Elementary Educators Program. This initiative is based on a request from the State Department of Education to design and introduce an interdisciplinary major for education. The focus will be on math, literacy and science.

Ed & Ed Psy also revised their digital literacy course and also gained CUCAS approval for ten new courses.

Visual & Performing Arts

Music and Music Education. Approval of four courses and a redesign of the Music Education Methods program of study.
The Theatre Arts Department was busy with approvals of eight new courses and revisions to others.

**Contract Majors**

The following individually tailored student contract majors were approved:

- Environmental Policy
- Human Health and Physiology
- Philosophy

**Summer Curriculum Grants Advisory Subcommittee**

CUCAS members David Smith, Jessica Eckstein and Nicholas Grecco served on the advisory subcommittee along with Fred Tesch from the Graduate Council.

The guidelines used by the subcommittee are those contained in the Faculty Handbook.

This past year, 17 faculty members requested a total of 70 credits. Only $35,218 was available for distribution. Eight requests (16 credits) were recommended to the Provost for funding based on the criteria in the Faculty Handbook and based on the funds made available. This resulted in a mean amount of $4,401 (individual amounts ranged from $1,647 to $5,355; or 1 to 3 credits).

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Markert, JLA
CUCAS Chair for
2013-2014 academic year