Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Standards
Report to the University Senate
2012-2013 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), Allen Morton (Dean, Ancell School of Business), Dan Goble (Dean, Visual & Performing Arts), Robin Flanagan (Arts and Sciences), Jessica Eckstein (Arts and Sciences), Anthony Markert, chair (Ancell), Robin Goodrich (Prof. Studies), Barbara Piscopo (Prof. Studies), David Smith (Visual & Performing Arts), Robert Whittemore (at large) and Catherine Rice (at large).

One Ancell, one Visual & Performing Arts and all student member seats went unfilled. One meeting had to be temporarily halted due to a loss of quorum.

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 November meeting was canceled due to a lack of agenda items.

The minutes were taken by the members of the committee (including deans) due to there being no administrative support available.

Following is a summary of CUCAS activities during the past year.

Ancell School of Business

Accounting. Changes to writing course requirements approved.

Finance. Changes to writing course requirements approved.


Arts and Sciences

Communication. Approval of two new courses: COM 3XX—Sound for Video and COM 2XX—Live News & Election Coverage.

English. Changes to program sheet approved.
History. Approval of new courses: HIS 2XX—War in Cinema and HIS 4XX—American Intellectual History.

Mathematics. Approval of changes in requirements for the BA in Mathematics with CS option. Approval of a new MAT 198 course entitled Mathematics in Literature.

**Professional Studies**

Health Promotion and Exercise. Approval of new course HPX 177—Student Independent Activities.

Social Work. Revisions to SW 306.

**Visual & Performing Arts**

Theatre Arts. Revisions to THR 125, 201, 300, 383 & 389.

**Contract Major**

The following individually tailored student contract major was approved: Historical Philosophy.

**Other issues**

*ConnSCU TAP Core Curriculum*

Approval of resolution re WCSU core competencies: “The future General Education Program should be a tiered competency based model, so that our students will be exposed to selected competencies multiple times throughout their course of study.”

Approval of resolution re TAP Framework, Competencies and Learning Outcomes: “The Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Academic Standards moves to ratify the Transfer and Articulation Policy framework, competencies, and learning outcomes using established curriculum governance procedures. These TAP documents were previously ratified by the TAP Core Competencies Steering Committee on October 26, 2012.”

*WCSU Online Policy*

Review and discussions of drafts of WCSU Online Policy document. Approved with amendments.
Discussions and recommendations for improvements in the Curriculum Development System including participation at CUCAS meeting by members of Information Technology & Innovation (formerly University Computing). Started with an “Interim Curriculum Proposal” system and migrated to the current Curriculum Development System. Minor “tweaks and fixes” of this system have been ongoing. This included CUCAS passing on the Provost’s Office ten courses that did not need CUCAS approval under the revised faculty handbook curriculum procedures.

2012-2013 Changes in the Faculty Handbook

Proposal passed to extend the 2012-2013 changes in the faculty handbook: “Resolution: That the changes adopted as a one-year trial by the University Senate on May 9, 2012 to streamline the curriculum adoption policies and procedures be extended through academic year 2013-2014, and that during Fall, 2013, the chairs of all curriculum committees, plus a representative from the Office of the Registrar, meet to agree on changes to these policies and procedures.”

Policy on Make-Up Examinations and Assignments

Review and discussions of drafts of a new policy on make-up examinations and assignments. Adoption of the following policy: “MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: Make-up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor, unless federal and/or state law applies. The instructor will announce their policy on the written syllabus at the beginning of each semester.”

Align Course Transfer Policy

Review, discussion and approval of a 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 institutions other than Eastern, Southern, and Central.

Summer Curriculum Grants Advisory Subcommittee

CUCAS members David Smith, Rob Whittemore and Barbara Piscopo served on the advisory subcommittee along with Bonnie Rabe from the Graduate Council.

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

This past year, 17 requests for a total of 75 credits were submitted for review. Only $46,099 was made available by the administration for distribution (see below). Twelve requests (27.25 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 $3,842 (actual range of $1,845 to $6,668). The total available for distribution was $57,605 but the administration subtracted $11,506 for “fringe benefits” leaving the $46,099 available for distribution. The CUCAS chair questioned this
reduction for fringe benefits and referred the matter to the WestConn chapter of AAUP for investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Markert, JLA
CUCAS Chair for
2012-2013 academic year