

Interdepartmental Courses

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COURSES & CURRICULA COMMITTEE

The inaugural Interdepartmental Courses & Curricula Committee (INTD C&CC) was formed in Summer 2006 and began to meet in the 2006/7 academic year. The new committee will play an important role in the University's interdisciplinary pedagogical development by instituting guidelines for the evaluation of new INTD course proposals.

The INTD course category encompasses UCONN undergraduate courses that are multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary in nature, but which do not fit within the course offerings of particular academic departments based in the schools or colleges, nor in the other subject areas recognized by the University. The INTD C&CC role will be similar to a School or College C&CC, but proposals will come from groups of academic departments, university programs (like the Honors Program or the First Year Experience Program), or partnerships of academic departments and university programs (like recent proposals for interdisciplinary honors general education courses).

INTD courses are dealt with under the authority of the Provost's Office and administered by the Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program (Dr. Margaret Lamb, Director). The previous INTD course approval process involved the Individualized & Interdisciplinary Studies Program advisory committee (known as the Individualized Major Committee) and the Associate Deans' Committee acting as INTD departmental-level and college-level curricula and courses committees respectively. Such ad hoc INTD course review arrangements involving existing committees with other primary responsibilities has meant that INTD course proposals have not undergone a review process truly equivalent to other new course proposals in the University.

In 2005 Vice Provost Veronica Makowsky asked the Chair of Senate Scholastic Standards Committee to advise her on an appropriate process of INTD course approvals, or elements of such a process. She sought a plan that would ensure adequate faculty review of INTD course proposals, but one that would not make the process of INTD course approvals excessively complex. The Scholastic Standards Committee considered the matter in 2005-06 and made a policy recommendation this spring. Senate approved the proposal in May. It is a proposal that Vice Provost Makowsky agreed to implement with the assistance of Dr. Lamb, her department, and the faculty members of a new INTD C&CC.

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