A Case for Added Governance

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CURRENT PROCESSES

Curriculum Changes within Colleges:
Department → College → Registrar

If curriculum extends across multiple colleges:
Department → College → Cross-College Curriculum Committee (C3) → Registrar

--Minors
--Programs that don’t belong to colleges (UNIV, PROV, INTO)
WHAT’S MISSING?

Lack of Curriculum Oversight at the University level

No formal approval stage [pre-BOV] where concerns about curriculum in other colleges can be discussed.

Impact:
• Duplication and redundancy of coursework
• Concerns are brought to the Provost directly by the Deans, more on ad hoc basis, sometimes discovery happens late in the process
• Confusing for students when multiple, similar options exist (international work/conservation work, etc)

OTHER CONFOUNDING CONCERNS

The new budget model will increase pressure on many units to broaden their offerings

• Creation of courses that work for one college but not others (Mason Core classes)
• Students may be forced to narrow attention to just one college
• Pressures on Admissions to accept certain types of credits from other institutions

Curriculum Process is a messy one at Mason

• Different forms used/different college processes
• Multiple entries mean multiple mistakes
• Increased workloads for faculty/staff
Creation of Undergraduate Council

To review and make recommendations to the Provost on behalf of the University regarding the undergraduate curriculum

This specifically includes:
1) The creation, modification, or discontinuation of all undergraduate academic degree programs, certificate programs, bachelor's/accelerated master's programs, minors, and courses;
2) Monitoring undergraduate program assessment; this would be the forum at the end of the APR process where recommendations/changes are reported out and implemented

This does NOT include:
Decision-making authority regarding academic policies for undergraduates. Power would be retained by Faculty Senate.

MEMBERSHIP

A. Two faculty representatives from each program-offering College/School/Academic Institute.
   1) The first faculty representative shall be appointed by the Dean,
   2) The second shall be a full-time instructional faculty member selected by the academic unit in accordance with its bylaws.

B. Additional members
   1) One member shall be elected by and from the Faculty Senate.
   2) Non-voting members [Final list TBD]:
      Academic Advising, Retention and Transitions (or representative from MAAN), Undergraduate Student Government, Registrar’s Office, Distance Education
LOGISTICAL CONCERNS

Previous Consideration in 2006

- New online-tracking software (Courseleaf) will streamline workflow

Faculty Senate Support

- Information today
  - Proposed bylaws posted to Faculty Senate Website

- Vote @ April Meeting

- Send Feedback to me: tleslie AT gmu.edu