Undergraduate Council – FAQs

1) Is a simple majority sufficient for rejecting / approving a proposed course? Is there an appeals process? Are there situations that should require a super-majority?

*Most decision-making is based on a simple majority vote; however for program related issues and by-law changes, a two/thirds majority vote of approval is required.*

2) If a new course is proposed by Department A, but appears to cover material or topics more appropriately housed in Department B, will deference be given to the presence of a signature from Department B on the course approval form?

*As we currently do with minors, as long as Dept B agrees to the Dept A proposal and signs off, then the proposal can move forward.*

3) What is the UC’s role in mediating disputes from college-level curriculum committees?

*The UGC will not mediate disputes at the level of college or departmental curriculum committees.*

4) Will the UC conduct retroactive review of already approved curriculum?

*The UC will likely give deference to the preservation of existing programs, minors, or courses.*

5) What does it mean by “Monitor Undergraduate Program Assessment”?

*The Office of Institutional Assessment will provide a yearly synopsis of APR reports conducted and the general highlights for each department, along with recommendations for the future.*

6) What is the difference between a change in curriculum handled by the UC, and a change in policy handled by the faculty senate?

*Policy changes for a single program would go to the UGC, primarily for notification. Policy changes that impact all undergraduate students, regardless of college, would be handled by the Faculty Senate Academic Policies committee.*

7) What is course leaf, how will it be used?

*Courseleaf is a curriculum management tool that has been adopted by the Registrar’s Office. As it develops, it will impact curriculum, catalog and scheduling. It will provide an automated system to manage the curriculum process from the point of departmental entry to the final catalog.*
8) How will the council assure that all academic programs affected by a proposal are sufficiently informed?

*There will be representatives from each college on the committee. Additionally, these programs will be posted on the UG Council site and regularly updated.*

9) How will the council address the lack of standardization in the curriculum approval process across academic programs? Many college have a requirement, but it is not always adhered to.

*Currently the Cross College Curriculum Committee has engaged in discussion about these sorts of issues, but has no jurisdiction to officially weigh in with specific concerns. The UGC will formalize this process and curriculum approvals will become more transparent. More transparency will help to move toward more standardization.*

10) What new policies and procedures for undergraduate curriculum development will be required of all academic programs?

*Nothing is currently planned. However, as new budget models unfold, increased attention is placed on interdisciplinary programs and the BOV considers curriculum reform, there could be new policies and procedures. However, these changes could happen with or without the UGC. Additionally, with the development of the Courseleaf workflow management process, issues could potentially arise that might require new procedures in some areas.*