Report of the Undergraduate Studies Committee 1.31.18

In the 11.28.17 UGSC meeting, the following item was approved and is forwarded to the University Faculty Council for consideration:

Approval of the Communication Across the Curriculum subcommittee review of the College of Architecture and the CAEE department. The report is at http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/ARCH-CAEEreviewmemo.pdf . ARCH is removing the C designation from ARCH 413, 456, and 475. CAEE is removing the C designation from CAEE 312, CAEE 417, CAEE 471. All decisions as presented in the report of the Communication Across the Curriculum subcommittee were approved unanimously.

In the 1.23.18 UGSC meeting, the following item was approved and is forwarded to the University Faculty Council for consideration:

Late administration of the Writing Placement Exam. Our system currently treats students who did not take the Writing Placement Exam the same as students who failed it—it requires them to take COM 101 and to pass it to satisfy their Basic Writing Proficiency (BWP) requirement. The problem arising is that advisors of students who, for whatever reason, did not take the exam are requesting that their currently-enrolled students be allowed to take the exam long after—sometimes years after—that deadline has passed. This effectively negates the goal of the policy which is to ensure that all incoming students satisfy the BWP as early as possible in their academic careers, as basic writing proficiency is an essential element of a successful academic career and thus should not be postponed. The concern is that we are undermining our goals with regard to the BWP if we have a loophole that gives students a way to circumvent this policy. The committee discussed the reasonable grace period for completing the writing placement exam. Students are supposed to take the exam before arriving on campus, but many do not. They are then not able to register for HUM 200-299 which is a prerequisite for many other courses. There was some consensus that the current policy needed clarification in the bulletin and that the policy once clearly outlined should be enforced. Proposed new Undergraduate Bulletin language regarding BWP at http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/BWP_Bulletin_Language.pdf was proposed by Greg Pulliam and was approved unanimously by the committee.

In the 11.28.17 UGSC meeting, the following item was presented, was further discussed at the 1.23.18 meeting, and is forwarded to the University Faculty Council for consideration as an information item:

Changes to the English language requirements for admission were presented by Toni Riley of Undergraduate Admissions. The changes are explained at https://admissions.iit.edu/undergraduate/apply/international-student-english-proficiency-requirement. Discussion of the committee, which continued in the 1.23.18 meeting, focused on the benchmarks, visa requirements, impact on student course schedules, and IIT's capacity to offer ESL courses. Tracey McGee & Jason Romano of English Language Service joined the discussion at the 1.23.18 meeting, which focused on who would determine if applicants were proficient and what evidence would be used to make this determination. It was agreed that PESL should make the determination, based on assessment, for any individual students and that the proposed language

needed clarification. There was additional discussion about how to police this policy, and it was suggested that an administrative fix was needed (ie registration holds, course withdrawal blocks). Greg Pulliam will work with admissions to draft new language and PESL will work with OTS on implementation on the administrative side.

In the 1.23.18 UGSC meeting, the following item was presented and is forwarded to the University Faculty Council for consideration as an information item:

A new degree proposal, Bachelor of Science in Science, Technology and Society was presented by Social Science; this proposal is available at http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/documents/STS_Program_Form_UGSC.pdf. Due to time constraints minimal discussion was possible and this will be taken up again at then next UGSC meeting.

Full minutes of all UGSC meetings are available at http://www.iit.edu/~ugsc/