

I Course Pilot Review

On Feb 12 UGSC voted to allow the IPRO UFC committee run a one year long pilot to test the I course concept (beginning in Fall of 2019). This brief document summarizes our progress and makes a request to extend the pilot for one more year.

What we have accomplished so far:

- Developed detailed guidelines for the development and evaluation of I course proposals.
- Develop and launched a “faculty innovation studio” that ran throughout the spring 2019 semester. This studio included 20 faculty members. The studio members learned about I Course, worked with their departments to determine possible courses that would qualify, and developed their own proposals.
- Reviewed 8 proposals for the I course pilot.
- Approved 2 proposals for Spring 2020
 - ARCH 497_05 Generative Modeling (Peluso)
 - CAE 470 Construction Methods and Cost Estmt. (Lemming)

What we have learned during the pilot:

- A written proposal is not sufficient for evaluation and decision making. The committee believes that all proposers should meet with the committee. This would also allow the proposer to refine and improve their proposal based on committee feedback.
- “Interdisciplinary” was highest hurdle for the proposals to clear. There are different definitions and perspectives about what is and is not interdisciplinary and how to operationalize the concept in a course environment. We did not observe any novel, new ways of making courses interdisciplinary. The two approved courses used traditional means (multiple disciplines enrolled in the same class).
- Many faculty felt there was no incentive to offer I courses. Although we tried to make the additional requirements minimal, many faculty felt applying for I course credit was additional work that was not fairly incentivized.
- Some faculty and administration feel that the I course concept might dilute the IPRO concept.

Committee position and request:

- We do not feel that we have collected enough data (with only two classes) to make a confident decision about the future of I course.
- We believe that the inclusion of in-person meetings between the proposer and the committee will increase the quality of the proposals and increase the number of proposals accepted.
- We feel that other issues (faculty motivation and issues with the registrar) can be addressed with more pilot time and focus.
- We would like one more year to pilot the I course (Fall 2020 and Spring 2021). The same constraints from the first pilot would apply. We would continue to update the UFC and UGSC on progress.
- An extension would allow us to begin accepting new proposals.