

Academic Affairs Subcommittee Report ---- 02/27/2020

Subcommittee members: Donald Chmielewski; Carly Kocurek; Alvin Lee; Jamshid Mohammadi; Rong Wang (Chair)

New method of course delivery: The Subcommittee was assigned to address the concerns raised in the December UFC meeting with regard to how new course offering modalities (e.g., 10-day course model) are developed and implemented. The Subcommittee's discussions led to the following guideline recommendation:

Guidelines to approve new method of course delivery: A new method of course delivery should be approved based on assessments of students' success and the faculty's teaching experience. It requires a trial period to acquire such information. Accordingly, (1) a new course delivery method for one or more courses must be pre-approved by the College Dean before it is offered for a probationary period; (2) a memo of entering a new course delivery method into a probationary period is submitted from the Dean to the UFC Chair; (3) at the end of the probationary period, a report including evaluation of student success/outcome, faculty self-assessment, evaluation of approaches used in the assessments as well as a proposal of applying the new method to deliver a set of courses within the College are submitted to UG/G Study Committee for approval; (4) upon UG/G Study Committee's approval and the UFC's and Trustee's approval, the method is permanently entered for delivering the set of courses.

Note:

The Guidelines are intended to facilitate the new method (initiated by an academic unit) to be explored in a fast pace while the pilot project is set on record. The assessment data collected during the probationary period will provide feedback for improvement and adjustment, and ease the new method's approval in the university.

The Guideline is NOT applicable to any new programs or course offering methods undergoing regular review and approval by UGSC or GSC.

Pulliam notes from the UFC meeting: This is in response to the 10-day winter-break courses introduced by the Humanities department last December. Dean Himes brought up the "threshold" issue - how do we know when a method of course delivery is "new enough" to warrant this procedure? My own feeling is that this will be impossible to define with any precision as technological innovations are not predictable and are often the generators of new delivery methods, but the Supreme Court's obscenity definition of "I'll know it when I see it" is probably pertinent. The Humanities classes, after all, were new in several ways: (1) ten-days total length, (2) consecutive days--across weekends, (3) occurred during the holiday break, and (4) totally online.