

Undergraduate Studies Committee

Standard Operating Procedures

AY25-26

According to the Faculty Handbook (Appendix B.V.D):

There shall be an Undergraduate Studies Committee (UGSC) that shall review and recommend to the UFC and the university faculty new programs and the financial support needed to implement them. The UGSC shall formulate policy and recommend to the UFC and the university faculty general education and graduation requirements as well as admission standards. The UGSC shall review, approve, and inform the UFC of course and program modifications, including ancillary university-wide academic policies related to undergraduate programs, such as testing, placement, proficiency, and grading. The UGSC shall review, as needed, existing degree programs, particularly those not subjected to external accreditation review, and report its findings to the UFC.

1. Each spring, the UFC will appoint a chair of the UGSC for the coming academic year. The person appointed need not be a member of the UFC but must be a member of the IIT faculty with voting rights.
2. Each Academic Unit (AU) offering one or more continuing undergraduate degree programs shall annually elect a voting member to the UGSC. AU representatives to the UGSC may succeed themselves without limit.
3. The ROTC Group shall annually elect one voting member of the UGSC. There shall be one student voting member of the UGSC, chosen annually by the UFC based on criteria established by the UFC, and a recommendation made to the UFC by the Undergraduate Student Government.
4. Each AU that offers undergraduate programs or courses, but does not offer an undergraduate degree program shall annually elect a non-voting member to the UGSC. Elected members may succeed themselves without limit.
5. Ex-officio, non-voting members of the UGSC are: the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Dean of Students, the Dean of Libraries, the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions, , the Director of the Academic Resource Center, the Director of the Office of Technology Services, the Registrar, the Vice Provost for Admissions and Financial Aid, and the Vice Provost for Student Access, Success and Diversity Initiatives.

[Note: At the 11/26/24 meeting of UGSC a motion was passed to replace the list of ex-officio members given above in #5 with a much less prescriptive description of ex-officio members of UGSC (using the same language that was passed earlier that semester by GSC).]

The Standard Operating Procedures and Policies of UGSC are described below.

I. Meeting Policies:

1. Voting members of UGSC are expected to attend all scheduled meetings. If a voting member is unable to attend a meeting, a substitute from their academic unit can attend and vote in their place provided the UGSC chair and secretary are given notification of this substitution no later than 8am of the day of the meeting. This notification can be made by the voting member or chair of the academic unit.
2. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend UGSC meetings in order to remain informed about undergraduate program changes as well as to provide input where relevant. However, there may be circumstances when only voting, non-voting, and Ex-officio members of the UGSC members would be permitted to attend an *in camera*, i.e. closed-door, meeting.
3. UGSC meetings may be held either on-line, in-person, or in hybrid format at the discretion of the chair.
4. Quorum for a meeting of UGSC shall be 50% of the voting members.
5. The meeting minutes will record the attendance of the voting members and, separately, the attendance of others.
6. Meetings may be recorded by UGSC for the sole purpose of use by the secretary in producing the meeting minutes. Meetings are not to be recorded by others.

II. Procedures and Policies related to approval of changes to curriculum:

The UFC, UGSC, and GSC have different approval processes for program changes that are deemed to be *significant* vs. *insignificant*. Each body will judge whether a proposed change is significant based on a set of criteria. For example, if one or more of the following are true, then the program change is deemed to be *significant* by the UGSC:

- Formation of a new program or elimination of an existing program
- Change in the name of a program
- An aggregate change of 25% or more over three years to the content of a program (as per HLC reporting requirements).
- A change in the administrative support framework for an existing program, for example, for interdisciplinary programs or changes in delivery modalities, etc.
- Changes to admissions criteria to a program that differ substantively from institutional requirements.

Notes:

1. Derivative programs, such as Coursera, Beacon, or other global partnerships, do not constitute a new degree; therefore, they are classified as insignificant changes. Keep in mind the following guidelines:
 - Derivative programs must satisfy the degree requirements for the parent program, but they typically require a more curated set of courses than the parent.
 - Derivative programs will be listed as separate “Tracks” of the parent programs, and this is how they are to be submitted in CIM.
 - Such derivative programs will be aggregated in a separate section of the Undergraduate Catalog that is called “Illinois Tech Global”.
2. Changes which do not meet any of the above criteria can still be deemed to be significant by UGSC if a vote is taken to this effect. However, ordinarily, the following sorts of changes would be categorized as insignificant changes (and no vote for such categorization need be taken).
 - Changes to a list of allowed electives a student can choose from (in a program or minor).
 - Changes to the number of credits awarded for a particular course.
 - Changes of either adding or removing a small number of courses to the requirements of a program.
 - Changes to CIP codes (note: GSC does consider such changes as significant).

While UGSC will make its own determination as to whether a proposed change is significant or not, the UFC has final authority on such a classification.

○ Procedure for approval of proposals that are classified as significant:

1. Academic units initiate program changes, additions, and eliminations by entering them in CIM.
 - a. As an alternative to program elimination, a program can be put on “hiatus” so that it no longer accepts new students and is removed from the Catalog and admissions applications.
 - b. Requests for hiatus status must come with a clear explanation for the reason to request such status. For example, it could be done as a prelude to program elimination or to provide for a dormant period while a program undergoes major revisions, awaits additional faculty, etc.
 - c. By default, hiatus status lasts for two years, after which the program’s home academic unit is notified for further action.
2. Once entered into CIM, proposals are brought to a regularly scheduled UGSC meeting for presentation and discussion. The proposal is received by UGSC as a motion from the home academic unit representative and requires a second prior to discussion. The motion is then automatically tabled until the next scheduled meeting of the UGSC.

3. UGSC academic unit representatives are to bring relevant proposals to their home units for discussion and a vote, where appropriate, which is to inform the representative's vote on the UGSC. The proposer's academic unit may also be asked to provide additional clarifying information.
 4. Such input will be presented at the next scheduled UGSC meeting by academic unit representatives along with any further discussion. Discussion is followed by a vote of the UGSC voting members, and a simple majority results in approval of the proposal by UGSC.
 5. Proposals receiving approval by the UGSC are then brought to the UFC for approval according to their procedures.
- Procedure for approval of proposals that are classified as insignificant:
1. Academic units initiate program changes by entering them in CIM.
 2. Once entered into CIM, proposals are brought to a regularly scheduled UGSC meeting for presentation, discussion, and vote. The proposal is received by UGSC as a motion from the home academic unit representative and requires a second prior to discussion.
 3. Discussion is followed by a vote of the UGSC voting members, and a simple majority results in approval of the proposal by UGSC.
 4. Proposals receiving approval by the UGSC are then brought to the UFC for approval according to their procedures.

Note that submission of a proposal in CIM by an academic unit implies that the proposal has been presented to, and approved by, the faculty of the submitting academic unit(s) according to their established procedures. The UGSC can request submission of the minutes that reflect such approval processes and results at their discretion.

III. Procedures and Policies related to Core Curriculum courses

There will be a standing sub-committee of UGSC for each of the subject areas of the Core Curriculum:

- Communications (C),
- Humanities (H),
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (S),
- Natural Science or Engineering (N),
- Mathematics (MATH),
- Computer Science (COMP),
- Introduction to the Professions (ITP), and
- Interprofessional Projects (IPRO).

The chair of UGSC will appoint the chairs of these subcommittees, these chairs need not be UGSC members.

The main purpose of these sub-committees is to determine whether a course should be given a desired core-course designation. Additionally, the sub-committees should take a leading role when Learning Outcomes for their subject areas in the Core Curriculum are in revision.

- Procedure for a course to be granted a core-course designation
 1. The request that a fully approved course be given a core-course designation is initiated by using CIM to revise the course and add designation:
 - a. Within CIM go to “Course Inventory Management”
 - b. Select the course and the option to “Revise Course”
 - c. Under “Change Type” select the option “Adding or Changing Gen Ed”
 - d. Select which designation(s) you wish the course to be given and hit submit.
 2. Contact the Chair of UGSC to make them aware of the request and to supply them with the course syllabus.
 3. The Chair of UGSC contacts the chair of the designation sub-committee and requests that an ad-hoc committee be formed (typically consisting of 2 or 3 faculty in the discipline) to review the request.
 4. The sub-committee reviews the course to make a determination of whether they believe the course meets the Learning Outcomes of the core designation. The sub-committee may interact with the faculty who initiated the request, and the course syllabus may be revised to satisfy the sub-committee's requirements.
 5. Upon making a final determination the sub-committee makes a written recommendation to the UGSC chair. If the recommendation is to approve the designation for the course, a member of the sub-committee, or the chair of UGSC, presents their recommendation at a future UGSC meeting. Unless objections to the recommendation are voiced, there is no requirement for UGSC to vote on approval of the designation for the course.
 6. The UGSC chair approves the designation request within CIM, this completes the process. It does not go to UFC for approval.

IV. Informational Items

1. There are some curriculum changes which do not need to be voted on by UGSC but nonetheless should be presented at a UGSC meeting. It is important that faculty, academic advisors, and administrators are made aware of such changes and have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. These changes may have consequences that the academic unit in charge may not have considered. The following items are all of this nature and will be listed in the minutes as informational items.
 - a. Creation or discontinuation of minors.
 - b. Creation or discontinuation of specializations.

c. Creation or discontinuation of courses.

2. Informational items can also be items which do not involve curricular change. For instance, a reminder of a scheduled “town hall” meeting could be an informational item.

V. Policies affecting undergraduate education.

1. Any member of the university: student, staff, faculty, or administrator can request that a proposal or discussion item be placed on a UGSC meeting agenda concerning a policy affecting undergraduate education. Examples of such policies include
 - a. Grades that are available for faculty to assign (A, B+, etc...)
 - b. GPA requirements for graduating with honors
 - c. Policies on how many minors a student can earn
 - d. The academic calendar
2. The UGSC chair may form subcommittees for further discussions of such policies with the intent of the subcommittee to formulate a policy that can be voted on by the full UGSC membership.
3. Passage of new policies or changes to existing policies by UGSC shall be presented as recommendations to the UFC.

VI. Procedures and Policies Related to Review of Existing Degree Programs

1. UGSC will review undergraduate academic programs on a rotating periodic basis. At the start of each academic semester, the UGSC chair shall inform the UGSC as to which programs are to be reviewed during that semester.
2. For academic units that undergo external review or accreditation, a summary of that process as it relates to the curriculum of the AU degree programs can be utilized.
3. For all other units, a report that includes how the curriculum meets the academic program objectives and how the program has changed, along with the rationale for these changes or lack of thereof, since the last review by the UGSC will be presented to the UGSC. A form for such a report has been constructed by UGSC:
<https://ugsc.iit.edu/documents/2021-2022/UGSC-Periodic-Curricular-Review-Form.pdf>
4. Failure of an academic department to submit a report in a timely fashion can result in the chair of UGSC refusing to place future action items from that department on the UGSC meeting agendas.

VII. Changes to Standard Operating Procedures of the UGSC

At any time, a voting member of the UGSC, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, or the UFC may propose changes to UGSC’s Standard Operating Procedures:

1. Such proposals are initiated via formal notification of the UGSC Chair.
2. The UGSC Chair must bring such proposals to the UGSC in a timely fashion for consideration and approval.
3. Approval of such proposals follows steps (2)-(4) given previously for approval of significant program changes.
4. Once approved by UGSC, proposals are brought to UFC as informational items.

VIII. Ad hoc Committees

At the discretion of the UGSC and its Chair, ad hoc committees may be appointed to research, deliberate, and/or make recommendations to the UGSC on focused items when a specific need arises:

- The specific charge and timeline for such ad hoc committees will be clearly communicated to the committee.
- The membership of an ad hoc committee may include representation from any faculty, staff, and/or administrative groups as necessary.

IX. Distribution and Archiving of UGSC Minutes and Documents

UGSC has a website: <https://ugsc.iit.edu/>

The secretary of UGSC will upload all UGSC minutes and documents to this website.