**First Year Programs & Learning Community (FYP&LC)  
Faculty Courses and Curriculum Oversight Board**

**University of Connecticut   
December 13, 2018**

**3:00-4:00pm, Rowe 234**

**Present:** Jaci VanHeest (Chair), Tom Deans, Alexia Smith, Steven Zinn, Melissa Foreman, Dave Ouimette, Sarah Renn, Sarah Scheidel, Amanda Wilde

**Absent:** Daniel Burkey, James Chrobak, Stephen Dyson, Mohamed Hussein, Maria Martinez, Friedemann Weidauer

1. **New Instructors**
   1. Kaeppel (UNIV 1800 – PhD Student) – ***approved to instruct***
      1. Kaeppel is a PhD student in UConn’s Adult Learning program. She is interested in teaching an FYE course so that she can conduct dissertation research on strategies to improve student critical thinking. Her research design is still in the early stages of development, so there are questions as to what design she would propose and how a class of FYE students would fit.
      2. She will be instructing on her own, so the new instructor application needs to be amended to show that she would not have a co-instructor.
      3. Kaeppel is approved to instruct FYE, but will not be able to use the class in her research unless the FYE Faculty Oversight Board reviews and approves her proposal.
2. **New Courses to Review**
   1. UNIV 1820 – Morenus – Connecting with METAS – ***tabled for more information***
      1. Morenus is the Assistant Director of UConn’s Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center (PRLAC). She is proposing this course for Mentoring, Educating, and Training for Academic Success (METAS) mentees, with the possibility that they would become METAS mentors in the fall semester.
      2. Scheidel has requested changes already to the syllabus learning objectives and grading/participation section, but hasn’t yet received a response.
      3. Discussion for this proposal centers around whether this is really a UNIV 1820 vs. a UNIV 1800/1810. While it seems closest to a UNIV 1810 by combining field content specific information with general student transition, this is not being proposed as a Learning Community course. Ouimette noted that the UNIV 1820 course is meant to be a topic-based seminar based on the expertise and passion of the instructor and is not meant to be a training course that would lead to a job, internship, etc., as is being proposed by Morenus.
      4. The course also will have a closed population of students able to register, as only mentees currently in the METAS program will be eligible to take this course. This seems counter to the goals of the UNIV 1820.
      5. Van Heest, Deans, and Zinn noted that the syllabus is missing readings, which UNIV 1820 proposals should include. Depending on the purpose of the course, it is uncertain if Morenus is the correct instructor for the course. It was also noted that the course content seemed like it could be achieved in three Saturdays rather than during a 14-week course.
      6. It is decided to table this course in order to allow Scheidel to contact Morenus about the missing or amended syllabus elements. Morenus should also contact El Instituto: Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean & Latin American Studies, to determine if this proposed course could be offered under their course suite rather than under FYE’s.
   2. UNIV 1820 (Hartford) – Papacostas Ginalfi – Resilience through Mindfulness – ***tabled for more information***
      1. This course is proposed to be offered starting in Spring 2019 to students at the Hartford campus. Papacostas Ginalfi is an academic advisor in Hartford campus’ TRIO program and wanted to create this course to provide over-stressed and anxious students with self-care strategies. She wanted to meet for two hours each week for the first seven weeks of the semester so as to have an hour of lecture/instruction, followed by an hour to application. This would allow students to receive knowledge and strategies quickly, which could then be utilized throughout the remainder of the semester and onward.
      2. Board members questioned the timing of the course, wondering if it will be better to meet every week for a shorter time than so intensively during the first half of the semester. There is also the concern that if the university has a weather-related closing, students would miss a large amount of class time.
      3. Zinn and Deans had concerns about the community service requirement, needing more information as to how this relates to course learning objectives. Smith noted that the community service portion of the grade seems high considering the lack of a reflection or debriefing of the experience.
      4. For the syllabus, Ouimette will like to see a grading scale, as well as stronger learning objectives and a participation statement supported by university policy.
      5. This proposal is tabled for further clarification.
3. **Other Topics**
   1. Developing a SOP for working with regional campuses - ***tabled***
   2. Designating FCCOB members for winter session approvals
      1. Steven Zinn and Jaci VanHeest will oversee winter approvals until the entire board reconvenes in 2019. Tom Deans will be an alternate as needed during this time.