

From the School of Science and Health and the School of Liberal Arts:

Motion: The University should create a standing committee of the faculty entitled the University College Studies Committee.

(Note: the recent College Studies program review recommended changing the name of the program. If and when that occurs, the name of this committee will be changed accordingly)

Background Statement of Need:

A university-wide College Studies committee is needed to promote better communication to both students and faculty with regard to the goals and functioning of the College Studies curriculum. The present structure of two separate Undergraduate Education Committees in the School of Science and Health and in the School of Liberal Arts with no formal connections or consultative structures has led to a lack of coherent administration and oversight between the liberal arts and sciences and math offerings in the College Studies program. One primary aim of this committee is to facilitate the internal coordination of the program by creating a venue that brings together representatives of the two Schools currently responsible for delivering the general education core curriculum.

In addition, this committee will create a permanent and formal structure for the effective recruitment of professional faculty involvement in the College Studies program. Collaborative work with Student Affairs and professional faculty has depended upon the individual efforts of the Undergraduate Education Committees in SLA and SSH and efforts of staff, administrators and faculty within the two schools. These have been successful ventures – witness the success of the freshmen anthology OPEN and the joint committee work undertaken by the School of Architecture and the School of Liberal Arts. However, a central institutional committee supported by faculty governance would show the University's commitment to a strong College Studies program and would allow for more effective long term collaborative and integrative activities.

The creation of this committee was recommended by the external review of the College Studies program in the fall of 2004.

Aims:

1. The University College Studies Committee will be the forum for the promotion of the common College Studies curriculum.
2. The creation of a university-wide committee will allow for better communication of the aims and outcomes goals for the College Studies program.
3. The creation of a university-wide committee will provide for a more effective institutional structure to promote increased involvement in the College Studies program by faculty teaching in the professional majors. This is especially important as the program moves to promote more effective integrative learning.
4. The two Schools having the major responsibility for the College Studies curriculum, for staffing and evaluation of the quality of the program, and for student learning within the program will continue to maintain administrative oversight and the daily running of the College Studies program.
5. The structure of the College Studies program will continue as created by the 1991 Task Force Report and by the subsequent faculty vote creating the original College Studies program.

Membership:

- i. Chair: elected at-large from among the faculty members of the School of Science and Health and the School of Liberal Arts (in order to facilitate the internal coordination of the College Studies program). The chair of this committee will become an ex-officio member of his/her School's Undergraduate Education Committee, if not already elected to that committee. The chair will also count as one of the faculty representatives

of his/her School; in the end result, the committee should always have two faculty representatives from SLA and one faculty representative from SSH.

- ii. The chair of the SLA UEC
- iii. The chair of the SSH UEC (unless an SSH faculty member is elected as chair of the UCSC; in that case, the UCSC chair will be the sole SSH faculty representative)
- iv. One member of the SLA Undergraduate Education Committee (unless an SLA faculty member is elected as chair of the UCSC; in that case, the SLA will be represented by the UCSC chair and the SLA UEC chair)
- v. One representative from each of the remaining schools: Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, and Engineering and Textiles. Each such representative will be responsible for communicating with the faculty and administration of their School with regard to the College Studies program.
- vi. One student representative
- vii. Ex-officio: Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the School of Science and Health, and Dean of the School of Liberal Arts
- viii. Advisory: The Director of the Writing Program, the Director of the Honors Program, the Director of the Learning and Advising Center, a representative from Student Affairs staff, and a representative from the Office of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Charge:

- i. Oversee the College Studies program with the aim of maintaining its national leadership in general education.
- ii. Review new course proposals for the College Studies program (which may be initiated by the School of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Education Committee, the School of Science and Health Undergraduate Education Committee, individual faculty members, or other school Undergraduate Education Committees) before they are submitted to the University Undergraduate Education Committee for approval.
- iii. Support integrative learning, particularly courses and projects involving professional as well as liberal arts and sciences faculty.

- iv. Provide a forum for communicating goals and curricula between the professional programs and the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Science and Health, to widen the cross-campus understanding of all programs.
- v. Provide a mechanism for the discussion of the learning outcomes for Philadelphia University students (“What Characterizes a Philadelphia University Graduate?”) in relation to the College Studies program.
- vi. Provide a forum for the discussion of the College Studies components of university-wide first year initiatives.
- vii. Oversee outcomes assessment by the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Science and Health.
- viii. Oversee program review on a regular basis.