

The Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee

The Agenda Council, acting on the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Committee on Committees, proposes that the Assembly delete section IV.4.b (The Academic Standards and Policies Committee) from its bylaws, and replace section IV.4.k (The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee) with language constituting a new committee, The Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee.

Currently, the Academic Standards and Policies committee deals with where courses are counted in the curriculum and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee deals with the approval of new courses. New courses are often reviewed by two committees, one which approves them and another which determines where in the curriculum they should fit. In the past year, for example, a course for the new International Studies B.A. has been considered by two committees and appeared on the Assembly agenda in two different months, first for approval to create the course and later for approval to count the course in the curriculum). Such inefficiency could be eliminated by having one committee with the authority to review courses and determine their place in the curriculum.

It is clearly the will of the Assembly that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee streamline its course approval process. This recommendation would promote such streamlining by concentrating discussion about curriculum and academic policies in one place. As the curriculum review process is streamlined, the new committee would have a reasonable workload handling a mix of new course proposals and other academic policy issues. We expect the new committee would, in the fall, announce a streamlined course review process.

Most business coming from Standards and Policies in recent years has dealt with course placement. Combining course review and course placement decisions will make that work more straightforward. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the chair of Standards and Policies have endorsed this bylaw change.

The Agenda Council reminds its colleagues that we recently created a new standing committee, and Agenda Council representation is required on each standing committee. Reducing by one the number of standing committees would also be a benefit to the Agenda Council.

Proposed Bylaw

The Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee

1. The Undergraduate Curriculum and Standards Committee provides faculty oversight for matters of curriculum and standards. The committee will review and develop specific recommendations for the Assembly on academic policies and standards. It will approve new courses, and recommend to the Assembly the approval of new majors, programs or certificates.

2. If the committee does not approve a course, the interested department may appeal to the Faculty Assembly.

3. The Committee will be composed of eight members: five faculty, a designated Agenda Council representative, a non-voting School administrative officer designated by the Dean, and a student.

If this bylaw passes, Section IV.4. would be re-lettered to take account of the deletion of the current IV.4.b.