

## Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Executive Committee

distributed

18 September, 2016

### Minutes

meeting

Friday

12:00–1:00

16 September, 2016

Acting Chair

Mark Blizard

members present

John Alexander, Bob Baron, Ian Caine, Sedef Doganer, Bill Dupont, Jim Dawes, Armando Ariza, Hazem Rashed-Ali, Steve Temple

members absent

Diane Hays, Antonio Petrov (excused)

action items indicated below:



*review of charge for this committee in the short term*

We have been tasked by the Department Chair to address curricular issues (that have primarily emerged from the sub-committee reports from this past year) for the purpose of making catalog change recommendations for the upcoming 2017–2018 catalog. Additional issues and recommendations can also be discussed and put forward to the Department Chair.

### discussion

*1st + 2nd catalog descriptions—proposed and current*

It must be noted that as Design 1 is a Core Curriculum class, any proposed change in the catalog description may have to be forwarded to the University Core Curriculum Committee. The committee was unsure whether the current descriptions were written for any larger curricular needs / purpose. Sedef volunteered to ask the Department Chair. The committee did not want to proceed with proposed changes until there was a clarification.

*2nd digital divide / digital pencil*

Ian: From his observations, the current 2nd year structure (digital studio + analog studio) is successful in that his students in the upper years seem more prepared and able to utilize digital technology. He also pointed out that a more integrated digital sequence could be incorporated into the design studios beginning in the first year. He further indicated the need to consider the catalog descriptions (2nd year included) in light of the larger undergraduate program of study.

Mark: First year is problematic for the introduction of digital tools and environments due to several factors including: student matriculation into 2nd year; no computer requirement; economic limitations; computer lab size; curricular content of first year; 3 credit hour limitation of course.

We discussed the use of the computer as a “digital pencil” — a digital tool that would be parallel to the analog tools. There was general agreement that the focus of 2nd year design studios needs to be on buildings and architectural design vocabulary and processes rather than on diverting class time to teaching technologies. Parametric modeling and design would be introduced later in the curriculum (digital courses and an upper level design studio)—a sequence building on the 2nd year.

Jim + Hazem: To refocus the course on the architectural content, the range of digital tools could be restricted in this first encounter (2nd year studio) to an *initial set* (my emphasis) rather than an attempt to cover a broad range.



Sedef, Armando, Jim have been tasked to put together a proposal for further consideration. Progress will be reported next meeting.

*2nd field trip (prior to spring break, spring semester)*

There was full agreement among those present that the 2nd year field trip was a necessary part of the curriculum sequence and had ramifications beyond the 2nd year—and that it should be

continued

- ▶ handled as a Department concern. A proposal was put forward by the Mark to develop a Field Trip program for Spring Semester, just prior to Spring Break week. Sedef volunteered to begin to put together a proposal and report on progress next meeting. Jim will assist as needed.

John: Perhaps the OIP can put together a workshop for faculty (students?) that would be helpful in training / informing the faculty members that take on the 2nd year Field Trip. There was general agreement.

*3rd study abroad (progress report)*  
Held until next meeting (Acting Chair to deliver report)

*3rd + 4th*  
held until next meeting

- ▶ *other*  
Bob: Reminded us of the need to consider the courses content / curriculum / catalog descriptions with an understanding of the NAAB criteria and current assessment. Bob will report next meeting.

**next meeting:**  
**Friday, 23 September**  
**12:00–1:00**

omissions or additions to these minutes may be submitted directly to me or bring them to the next meeting. thank you all for your presence and input into this rather compressed process!  
—MAB