The meeting began at 8:00am.

The Chair welcomed the Committee.

Prior to a vote on the Consent Agenda, the Chair noted that the Provost had approved a request that the two associate degree programs from the College of Aeronautics (Consent Agenda Item 1) be effective for Summer 2017, irrespective of deadlines related to the University Catalog, though the programs would not appear in the Catalog until Fall 2018. Accordingly, the ANM forms were amended.

Consent Agenda:
The following items remained on the Consent Agenda and were unanimously approved.

College of Engineering
2. Department of Ocean Engineering and Sciences
   a. ANC - OCE 2901 - Surf Engineering Analysis

3. School of Computing
   c. ANC - CSE 4611 - Software Maintenance and Evolution
   d. ANC - CSE 3100 - Junior Project
   e. ANC - CSE 3612 - Human-Computer Interaction
   f. CRC - CSE 1001 - Fundamentals of Software Development 1
   g. CRC - CSE 1400 - Applied Discrete Math
   h. CRC - CSE 2050 - Programming in a Second Language
   i. CRC - CSE 4001 - Operating Systems Concepts
   j. CRC - CSE 3120 - Computer Architecture and Assembly Programming
   k. CRC - CSE 4232 - Computer Network Programming
   l. CRC - CSE 4101 - Computer Science Projects 1
   m. CRC - CSE 3411 - Software Testing 1
   n. CRC - CSE 4410 - Software Project Management
   o. CRC - CSE 4201 - Software Development Projects 1

Consent Agenda Discussion Items:
The following items were discussed and unanimously approved.

1. College of Aeronautics
   a. ANM - A.A. Air Traffic Control
   b. ANM - A.A. Flight Operations and Dispatch

It was asked whether assessment plans were supposed to be included with the new program requests. In response, it was stated that the same email from the Provost that indicated the effective dates for the program also indicated that the new programs would have assessment plans in place soon, and that this requirement was to be waived for purposes of UGCC approval.
The following items were discussed and unanimously approved.

3. School of Computing
   a. CGR – B.S. Computer Science
   b. CGR – B.S. Software Engineering

There were several amendments to the program plans, generally shifting electives around.

B.S. Computer Science:
   Sophomore Fall: Humanities Elective → Humanities Core Elective
   Junior Fall: Humanities Elective → CSE Elective
   Senior Fall: CSE Elective → Tech Elective
   Senior Spring: Tech Elective → CSE Elective

B.S. Software Engineering:
   Sophomore Fall: Humanities Elective → Humanities Core Elective
   Senior Fall: CSE Elective → Tech Elective

There was a concern that the Sophomore Fall terms were heavily loaded with COM and HUM courses, and it was asked if it might not be more appropriate to move the Humanities Core Electives into the Sophomore Spring terms. The response was that this was an attempt to get all the general education requirements done as early as possible and keep the two programs nearly identical. It was also stated that keeping the core elective in the Fall would allow students to take a higher-level humanities elective in the spring.

Discussion Items:

1. Modification of the University Core Curriculum – Dr. Archambault

   The Chair summarized the state of the discussion as of the end of the last meeting. He noted that he had sent out a document to the committee approximately two weeks ago reflecting the requirements of the general education core, as agreed to by the Committee as of the March 2017 meeting, for their consideration. At the last meeting, it was announced that a vote would be held on these requirements in the present meeting.

   The Chair explained that, late last week, he received a request from the Humanities program to hold a set of votes largely related to the elements of the School of Arts and Communication’s November 2016 proposal then submitted to the Committee. A meeting was held earlier in the week amongst himself, Dr. Ruane (Humanities, and Chair, GEDRC), Mr. Micus (Registrar), and Dr. Baloga (Provost) to discuss the matter. During that meeting, Dr. Baloga indicated her support for the proposal that was currently pending before the Committee (i.e. the document sent to the Committee two weeks ago) with a minor amendment, and not for the elements for which the Humanities program requested votes. As such, the Chair indicated that the requested votes would not be held, and a vote would move forward on the pending proposal.

   The Chair also reminded the Committee that it had discussed the possibility of modifying the core competency related to the natural sciences to include language associated with “engineering methodologies.” This was also discussed during the meeting with the Provost, and it was decided that the core competency would not be changed and that, for the time being, the College of Engineering would not need to participate in assessment of the General Education core curriculum. As such, no vote on that issue would be held.
As to the amendment, the following language in the pending proposal:

“Non-equivalent transferred humanities courses may be substituted for any of the above-named courses, as appropriate, provided that the course content is reasonably related to history, literature, art history, philosophy, or is a survey course similar to HUM 2051 or HUM 2052 but focuses on a different world region.”

was changed to:

“Transfer credit for non-equivalent HUM courses may be substituted for one or both of the humanities requirements listed in this section only if the transferred course is a survey course with content reasonably consistent with the HUM courses listed in this section, including survey courses focusing on different world regions.”

In an email to the Chair, Mr. Micus expressed concern that this language encroached on the resolutions passed by the Academic Affairs Committee. The Chair explained that the language was consistent with those resolutions, and its purpose was to provide guidance to the academic units as to what should and perhaps should not be made as a substitution request for the named HUM courses in the proposed requirements. The Committee understands that this language is not likely appear in the University Catalog.

It was asked if any indication could be made on the transcripts as to whether a transferred course could be reasonably used as a substitution, to which the response was “no.” For the time being, advisors could look at the Transfer Credit Evaluation forms on Xtender. It was suggested though that, in the future, as more transferred courses were evaluated, that eventually the database would be updated to reflect actual course equivalency, given the new humanities courses to be offered.

It was also noted that two of the humanities courses named in the pending proposal were incorrect and needed amending:

HUM 2211: British Literature and Culture
HUM 2212: British and American Literature 1

The document was amended accordingly.

A question was asked as to what prompted the requests from the Humanities program and the resulting meeting with the Provost. Dr. Perdigao (Humanities) explained that the program had concerns that permitting the named HUM courses to also be used towards the humanities elective has the potential to cause scheduling issues for students in such a way that sophomores (for whom the courses are intended) would not be able to register for them. As an example, Dr. Perdigao explained that during the current registration period, the four non-Civilization courses offered in Fall 2017 were nearly fully enrolled in the first weekend that registration was open, during which time only seniors and those with advanced registration status could register. The Humanities program felt it would be prudent to have a UGCC vote on this, and other elements of the School of Arts and Communication’s original proposal.

In response, an idea was floated that some of these issues might be resolved if the Registrar’s Office were to permit a reversal of the registration order. That is, after those students with advanced registration status were allowed to register, the order would be freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and finally seniors. This would give the lower classmen priority over the lower-division courses. The one concern that arose about this idea was that there may be those seniors preparing to graduate who still needed to complete, for example, a
humanities or social science elective, and might not be able to register for an appropriate course. However, it was not expected this would involve significant numbers of students, and that perhaps accommodations for those students could be made on a case-by-case basis. In any event, this is a matter to be decided by the Registrar’s Office and not the UGCC, though the UGCC does recommend the idea to the Registrar’s Office for its consideration.

Returning to the Humanities program’s request for votes, it was suggested that, in the future, a better process be determined to consider competing proposals on any given issue in the Committee, including intermediary votes, to hopefully avoid some of the difficulties that were presented during this process.

The Chair moved to recommend to the Provost changes to the General Education core curriculum as outlined in the document sent to the Committee two weeks earlier, amended as described above, and the motion was seconded. There was some additional discussion about the amendment and the need for a transferred course to be a “survey” course, but the amendment stood. The motion was approved on a vote of 12-0-1.

2. Request for UGCC Chair to be Ex-Officio Member of GEDRC –
Dr. Archambault (added during meeting)
A request was received from the General Education Assessment Divisional Review Committee (GEDRC) that the Chair of the UGCC be made an Ex-Officio member of the GEDRC. The purpose is so that the UGCC is always aware of issues under discussion within the GEDRC that might impact the UGCC’s business, and so that issues discussed in the UGCC can be brought to the GEDRC’s attention, as needed. The Ex-Officio member would be welcomed at all GEDRC meetings to provide his or her input, but would not have voting privileges.

The Chair noted that he is already a member of the GEDRC, but as a representative for the College of Engineering. This request would most notably impact future UGCC Chairs.

The concern arose that it is already sufficiently difficult to recruit a new Chair to the UGCC, and this would only add to that burden. It was asked if the Chair could appoint a proxy ex-officio member to the GEDRC at his or her discretion, to which the response was “yes.” The request was approved by unanimous vote.

The Chair noted the time of the next meeting.

Our next regular meeting is Fri., Aug. 25 at 8:00 a.m. in the Physical Sciences Bldg. conference room (OPS 202). Agenda items are due Fri., Aug. 18.

The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work this year, not only on the core requirements, but also on all the issues brought before the Committee. He indicated that their input and services were greatly appreciated.

The Chair reminded the members that if they are not planning to represent their academic unit next year, that it is the responsibility of their unit head to recommend a replacement to their Dean, who in turn should nominate that person to the Provost for her approval.

Finally, the Chair noted that, starting next year, the deadline to submit agenda items would move from the Friday before the meeting to the Thursday 8 days before the meeting. He noted that he had been receiving large volumes
of paperwork and requests late on Friday afternoons, leaving him with little time in many cases to complete the agenda. As such, agenda items for the Aug. 25 meeting will be due on Thurs., Aug. 17.

The Chair wished everyone a great summer.

The meeting ended at 8:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Archambault – Chair