**Report of the CLAS CC&C Subcommittee on Course Overlap**

**Spring 2019**

**Members**: Kari Adamsons, Jason Vokoun, Kathryn Libal, Mansour Ndiaye and Rebeca Bacher

The CLAS CC&C formed this subcommittee to address problems/issues with regard to (1) content overlap across courses on campus, and (2) course/department overlap in CLAS Area 1.

Relative to content overlap across courses on campus, there is a concern that students are taking and receiving credits for courses with similar content. That is, students are getting credits for academic work that is essentially the same as prior coursework.

The subcommittee believes that the duplication of course content across schools or departments is rooted in (a) a lack of awareness and central oversight of what courses are developed and offered by other schools and (b) the lack of adequate capacity or consistency in the offering of key courses needed by students in various academic programs on campus. Therefore, many departments feel the need to create and teach new courses with content that is similar to those of other existing courses on campus.

The subcommittee recognizes the existing difficulties faced by departments due to fiscal limitations and other constraints (e.g., buyout, sabbatical, faculty turnover etc…) and understands how these challenges affect the consistency of certain course offerings.

Given these realities, the subcommittee recommends the following:

1. Add credit restrictions language when departments are seeking approval of courses that have significant content overlap with any other course on campus
2. Modify the Course Action Request (CAR) form to require that faculty who are proposing new courses (a) provide a list of other similar courses (if any) *across all schools*, (b) confirm that they have had conversations with the departments housing such courses, (c) describe how they intend to address the content overlap, and (d) state whether the departments consulted approve the creation of the course
3. CC&C Chairs of all schools and/or the departmental representatives of all schools should have access to the course proposals being brought forth across all schools, so that there is greater awareness across schools (and not just within CLAS) of what course overlap might exist.

Given the scope of the second recommendation, the subcommittee believes that CC&C chairs of schools and colleges should discuss the recommendation, and if deemed appropriate, consider forwarding a resolution to the senate for review.

The subcommittee also discussed course overlap relative to CLAS Content Area 1. The college requires its students to take four to five courses from four different academic units in Content Area I (A-D). These areas are often known as CA 1A (Arts), CA 1B (Literature), CA 1C (History), CA 1D (Philosophy and Ethical Analysis) and CA 1E (World Cultures). Students who are seeking a Bachelor of Science only need to complete A through D.

In the past, the CLAS CC&C only afforded departments the option to list their courses in a single area, either Area A, B, C, D or E. However, recently, the committee has endorsed multiple listings where a single department (e.g., HEJS) has courses across different areas. This change in philosophy, combined with the increase of cross-listed courses across each of these areas, can be confusing to students (e.g., students may take “five courses” across these areas, but don’t realize they have not met the “4 different units” requirement), and has various implications for advising – for both faculty and professional advisors – and implementation in Peoplesoft.

While this change in philosophy currently presents various challenges, the subcommittee recommends that CLAS maintain the requirement that students take four courses from four different academic units, but grant an exception for cross-listed courses. An alternative is to require courses be from three different units.

The subcommittee further recommends that the full CC&C committee conduct a substantive review of this CLAS requirement as part of the University Delta GE revision process.