

## Memo

To: Senate Executive Committee & Senate

From: Suzanne C. Griffith (former Chair of  
UAAC & Sub-Committee on IDM/IDS)

Date: October 26, 2012

Re: Role of Credits Committee

After reviewing my notes from the meetings of the UAAC IDS/IDM Sub-Committee and from my meeting with the Credits and Student Reinstatement Committee I believe it was our intention that by spelling out the specific criteria for these programs, their oversight, and assessment requirements that the CSR Committee would be able to continue to approve (or not approve) the Individually Designed Major and Interdisciplinary Studies proposals.

I met with the 2011-2012 Credits and Student Reinstatement Committee (C&SRC) in February, 2013. My notes show that their complaint was that these programs were coming to them inconsistently prepared. They were unclear as to the criteria and the oversight provided within each case and, therefore, review was challenging.

The Sub-Committee developed a series of steps for the two programs and students, advisers, and instructors to follow and it built in assessment and criteria. It was our belief that this should make the process of review clearer for the C&SRC. It may be useful for a checklist of the specific steps to be created by the new committee being organized and shared with the C&SRC. (It also ought to mean that if Senate Executive has to approve these programs, during times when C&SRC is off campus, it too can use the checklist and criteria.)

The alternative was to give this oversight to the full UAAC which is considered the 'home' of these two programs. That did not seem appropriate or manageable. In the charge from the Senate Chair a year ago he spelled out four areas of concern to address and then added:

Of particular concern is the nature of the current process for approval (or revision) of an individually designed curriculum. Currently, this approval is carried out on a student-by-student basis. The IDS petition form requires the signatures of faculty constituting a "faculty panel committee", but in practice it seems that there is little or no communication among the faculty signing off or, occasionally, that only one faculty member has comprised the entire "panel committee". From here, final authority for approval resides with the Credits/Reinstatement Committee. Because of a lack of policy guidance, limited disciplinary representation, and frequent turnover (e.g., during summer, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate serves as the Credits/Reinstatement Committee), the Credits/Reinstatement committee has shown inconsistent degrees of willingness to exercise its oversight role for the petitions it is presented with.

It was our intention that the proposed two subcommittees (now made into one) would provide the C&SRC the guidelines needed to assist in their review. Our recommendations provide for the policy guidance, broader disciplinary representation, and assessment as requested.