

## **Motion [2015-03-M03]**

USAC Reflection Year

### **Whereas**

University Studies began its implementation in the 2011 - 2012 catalogue year. For this catalogue year, students were held to "The Core Curriculum." In the 2012 - 2013 catalogue year the implementation expanded to include First-Year Seminar, Building Competencies, Explorations Beyond the Classroom, Capstone Courses, and Thematic Transdisciplinary Clusters.

University Studies Advisory Committee (USAC), which has overseen the construction and implementation of the curriculum, is also responsible for establishing policy in relation to University Studies, disseminating University Studies information to the campus community, receiving general education assessment results, and formulating recommendations to the Faculty Senate for curricular changes based on assessment findings.

The Director of General Education Assessment assesses student learning within the University Studies curriculum in order to provide information for program improvement and assure student achievement of targeted Learning Goals on a 3-year recurring cycle.

Since its formation, USAC has reviewed and approved curriculum changes in US and expanded on the list of courses in each component of US. Additional courses have provided more opportunities for UNCW students to fulfill University Studies requirements and demonstrate mastery of the targeted learning outcomes. For example, in the 2014-2015 academic year, USAC has reviewed over 250 course proposals and approved about 100 courses for various US components.

While USAC must continue serving University Studies, the committee realizes that it is time to take a pause to reflect and to review four years of US implementation and revisit some of the fundamental elements of US before expanding and adding more courses to each component of the program. It is judicious that in collaboration with the General Education Assessment office, the University Studies Advisory Committee takes time to engage in an open and transparent self-study to examine the extent to which US courses have addressed their targeted learning outcomes and whether the alignment between US targeted learning outcomes and course activities has improved over time. In addition, marking 2015-2016 as a pause year will allow the USAC, in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, to implement the [GA-mandated review of general education](#), as approved by the Faculty Senate on 11 November 2014.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the USAC call a moratorium for academic year 2015-16. During this moratorium the USAC will spend the time to:

- Stop accepting or reviewing new course proposals for one academic year (2015-2016), except where need is strongly demonstrated by department/program.
- Use the 2015-2016 academic year to:
  - Develop better guidelines for aligning new US courses with the targeted learning outcomes.
  - Examine whether US courses are layered properly in order to scaffold students' progress across targeted learning outcomes and engagement in high-impact practices.
  - Examine General Education Assessment findings for trends and issues.
  - Identify specific approaches and principles that are proven to be effective in implementing and sustaining US courses.
  - Identify strategies that USAC could use to support implementation and assessment of US courses to ensure that all students achieve their educational goals.
  - Develop curricular planning suggestions to help ensure the availability of appropriate courses.
  - Implement a post-approval review process, as per GA's request.