



**Academic Council
Undergraduate Studies Committee e**

September 17, 2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Via Google Meet

Join: <https://meet.google.com/hwg-apiz-ivs>

Or dial: (CA) +1 647-735-5882 PIN: 213 892 290#

All Meeting Materials (*copy and paste into browser):

[USC Sept.17 2024 - Posting - Do Not Edit](#)

AGENDA

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|--|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda | M. Bluechardt |
| 2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of June 18, 2024 | M. Bluechardt |
| 3. Business Arising from the Minutes | M. Bluechardt |
| 4. Chair's Remarks | M. Bluechardt |
| 5. <u>For Information</u> | |
| 5.1 Minor Curricular Changes | |
| New Course: HLSC 4812U | |
| Request to reinstate a closed course: CSCI 3020U , CSCI 3150U , INFR 4380U | |
| 5.2 Memorandum: | |
| Marine Biology BIOS courses | |
| Computer Science – calendar correction | |
| 6. Volunteer for October Land Acknowledgement | |
| 7. Termination | |

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary



Academic Council
Undergraduate Studies Committee
Tuesday June 18, 2024
9:01 am – 9:33am
Via Google Meet

All Meeting Materials (*copy and paste into browser):
[USC – June 2024 Agenda and Materials](#)

MINUTES

Present: Otto Sanchez(Acting Chair), Scott Aquanno, Wendy Barber, Ana Duff, Randy Fortier, Mehdi Hossein Nejad, Scott Nokleby, Aliyat Olatinwo, Darryl Papke, Adam Wingate,

Regrets: Mary Bluechardt, Randy Fortier, Jennifer Racine, Denina Simmons, Tega Ubor

Staff and Guests: Kirstie Ayotte (secretary), Michelle Heslip, Andrea Kassaris, Kimberley McCartney

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01am. S. Nokleby began by acknowledging living and studying in various Indigenous territories and expressed gratitude for the hospitality of First Nations Peoples. He followed by reading aloud our land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby, and seconded by M. Hossein Nejad, the Undergraduate Studies committee approved the agenda, as presented.

3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of April 16, 2024

Upon a motion duly made by R. Fortier and seconded by S. Nokleby, the Undergraduate Studies Committee approved the Minutes, as presented.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted

5. Chair's Remarks

O. Sanchez began by noting M. Bluechardt's regrets and was happy to present as Acting Chair today. He reflected on recent celebrations including the Fall Convocation Ceremonies and the 20th Anniversary celebrations that the Faculty of Health Sciences hosted highlighting the milestones and evolution of the university. He expressed pride in the university's continual creativity and adaptability. He noted that this was the end of his term on the USC and appreciated the committee's ongoing contributions and hoped that everyone has an enjoyable summer.

6. Major Program Modifications:

a) **Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science – Pre-Engineering Pathway**

S. Nokleby presented the new pathway program designed to help students who lack high school courses required for engineering entry. He noted how it will be beneficial for students from small or First Nations communities where courses like calculus, chemistry, and physics may not be offered and highlighted that the program aims to increase diversity in engineering by supporting underrepresented groups. He advised that participants will complete the necessary courses while also taking engineering classes, allowing them to integrate with their cohort from the start and noted that the pathway will not lower the program's entry requirements but provide an alternative route for students who missed specific courses, not those who failed them.

In response to a question about students who do not succeed in the pre-engineering program, S. Nokleby explained that they could potentially take other programs or retake the courses. He noted that the initial focus is on underrepresented groups but mentioned future discussions regarding opening the pathway for struggling students and potentially using it as a retention tool.

A. Wingate added that the pre-engineering pathway students would be ineligible for OSAP during the first term but would become eligible once they transition into the engineering program. He highlighted other financial assistance options available that could be considered.

S. Nokleby clarified that the pre-engineering pathway does not extend the overall program duration. Students will take an extra semester, typically in the first summer to complete the prerequisite courses. The courses do not count towards the credit requirements for the engineering degree.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby, and seconded by R. Fortier, the Undergraduate Studies Committee recommended to Academic Council, the approval of the Major Program Modification to add a Pre-Engineering Pathway for all Bachelor of Engineering programs.

7. Office of the Registrar Partnership

a) English Language Proficiency – Oxford English Language Level Test (ELLT)

A. Wingate noted the addition of this English language proficiency test aims to expand options alongside the other established tests that are offered. The ELLT is recognized globally and offers online accessibility allowing students to take it from their home country. Security measures such as biometrics and facial scanning will ensure testing integrity, which is like other language tests.

In response to a question regarding competencies, A. Wingate confirmed that the test includes components for oral, listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and emphasized that the tests comprehensive assessment structure includes an overall score, but also sub-scores for each area which are considered by admissions.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by R. Fortier, the Undergraduate Studies Committee hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Oxford International Digital Institute (OIDI) partnership and use of the Oxford ELLT test from applicants, as sufficient evidence of English language proficiency with a recommended minimum score of 8 for Education and Nursing programs and 7 for other undergraduate programs and effective for the January 2025 intake.

b) English Language Proficiency – Oxford ELP Partnership

A. Wingate advised that this initiative aims to broaden international market appeal by offering additional options for English language proficiency testing and addresses challenges issuing personal attestation letters (PALs) for short-term language programs, preserving them for longer term academic programs. Addressing a question raised about the effectiveness of various English language proficiency tests in predicting student success, A. Wingate responded that internal benchmarking has been done, comparing admitted students' test scores with their GPAs after their first term or year. Results indicate that most major tests adequately prepare students, if data shows that a lesser-known test consistently results in underprepared students, considerations could be made to increase the required score or discontinuing acceptance of that test.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by R. Fortier, the Undergraduate Studies Committee hereby recommends to Academic Council the approval of the Oxford International Digital Institute (OIDI) partnership to include the OIDI Pathway English Online as an authorized English Language program from applicants, as sufficient evidence of English language proficiency with a recommended completion of Level 7 (or opt to enroll in Level 6 of Ontario Tech's English Language Centre for Education and Nursing programs) for undergraduate programs and effective for the January 2025 intake.

8. Academic Policy Instruments

a) Program Nomenclature Directives

K. McCartney advised that significant revisions were made to the degree structure and policies, prompted by new provincial requirements and internal confusion about double-counting courses for double majors or minors. She highlighted extensive consultations with Academic Advising and multiple faculties, noting the changes primarily involved aligning definitions with new frameworks and simplifying term definitions. The double-counting rule was removed, and clearer guidelines were added for using the same course for multiple purposes. She explained that credit hours for specializations were reconfigured to ensure they are more comprehensive than minors. Additionally, she noted that the policy's oversight was shifted from the Associate Provost to the Provost and that future strategic discussions on undergraduate degree structures are anticipated in the future.

K. McCartney clarified that the changes to the double counting rule are meant to simplify and make the policy clearer, not change its substance. The rule allowing up to twelve credit hours (four courses) for double majors remains the same, but the new language makes it easier to understand

In response to a question, she noted that recent adjustments to specializations, set to take effect in September, align with the new requirements and that some existing specializations already exceeded previous credit hour requirements, so the new changes fit better. She assured that both current and upcoming specializations have been reviewed to ensure compliance.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Aquanno and seconded by R. Fortier, the Undergraduate Studies Committee hereby approves the amended Program Nomenclature Directives.

9. For Information

9.1 Minor Curricular Changes

Course Changes: [KINE 1140U](#), [KINE 2050U](#)

10. Volunteer for September Land Acknowledgement

O. Sanchez nominated Janet McCabe

11. Termination

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Kirstie Ayotte, Assistant University Secretary