

## **Undergraduate Committee Curriculum Subcommittee**

Intentions and Goals

10 17 2023

During the September 30, 2023, meeting of the Undergraduate Committee a spontaneous yet important conversation arose. The topic of that conversation centered on curriculum coordination and the unintended “silo-ing” of information which can lead to inefficiencies, redundancies, and incongruence with curricular goals and their implementation. It was also noted that coordination procedures may not be clear, and outcomes may not be fully understood or efficient in their application, as noted by challenges encountered in the scheduling of specific course requirements such as in the various required electives (HTC, Design Media, and Research).

While the conversation fluctuated, topics addressing both intra and inter program needs also surfaced. As the CoAD continues to grow and evolve, its curricula must also evolve. Therefore, the need for a focused, yet comprehensive approach to examining, evaluating, and developing the college’s curricula is necessary.

The intention of the Undergraduate Committee Curriculum Subcommittee is to focus on the discussion, evaluation, and investigation of issues pertinent to curricular development. To guide its work, the subcommittee aims to identify a clear profile of what successful graduates from all programs in the CoAD should possess in relevant skills and employability. This perspective will ensure that the curriculum is developed and coordinated to support those profiles.

Below are examples of topics, both comprehensive and specific, that the Curriculum Subcommittee could undertake. As it would become a committee of 27 members, it is envisioned that these topics represent suggested domains researched by various sub committees who would then report to the Undergraduate Committee for further deliberation and presentation to the CoAD faculty for voting and implementation.

Comprehensive issues:

- Establishing a profile defining our graduates
- Evaluating our current curricula in relation to the above
- Exploring relevant precedents for a comprehensive curricular coordination
- Implementation and Integration of Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design program

Specific issues:

- Implementation and coordination of specific curricular interests and goals
- Course scheduling and student interest considerations
- Definition of research for the CoAD
- Management of elective offerings
- DESN course naming issues

Inclusive viewpoints are crucial and vital in this subcommittee's work. Therefore, it was envisioned that the subcommittee would be an expansion of the Undergraduate Committee and include 4 additional faculty members from the Undergraduate Architecture Program, 2 additional faculty members from the Industrial Design Program, 2 additional faculty members from the Interior Architecture Program, student representatives and two staff members from the Student Services Office.

The current and consulting members of the Undergraduate Committee and invited guests are:

Patricia Oliver (ex officio)  
Dietmar Froehlich (ex officio), Chair  
Trang Phan (ex officio)  
Jason Logan  
Daniel Jacobs  
Patrick Peters  
Rafael Beneytez-Duran  
Deepa Ramaswamy  
Andrew Kudless (guest)  
Tom Diehl  
Rives Taylor  
Jeff Feng (guest)  
Mark Kimbrough  
Sheryl Tucker De Vazquez  
Joshua Estrella (Student Representative, voting)  
Ezequiel Alvarenga (Student Representative, Alternate)

Members required to be on the subcommittee, owing to the existence of both vertical and horizontal linkages between the undergraduate and graduate programs in the CoAD would include:

Gail Borden  
Jenny Mutz (Academic Advisor)  
Ylei Gachupin (Program Coordinator)

The remainder of the committee would include additional faculty representation from Architecture, Industrial Design, and Interior Architecture:

Architecture:	4 faculty
Industrial Design:	2 faculty
Interior Architecture:	2 faculty

The above representatives constitute 27 members from the faculty, staff, and students, including approximately 1/3 of the faculty currently teaching in the CoAD. This is to ensure that multiple understandings and perspectives of administrative and curricular coordination needs are incorporated into the discussion. It is envisioned that the

subcommittee will be divided into 4 or more working groups, each assigned a particular area to research and provide input for further deliberation by the Undergraduate Committee.

Initial planning considerations suggest the Curriculum Subcommittee would meet every two weeks with one meeting including the entire Curriculum Subcommittee and alternate meetings representing working sessions of the various subcommittees that will be created after the first meeting. The initial meeting will occur during the established meeting time of the Undergraduate Committee, which is November 10, 2023 at 12:00PM.

This overview provides contextual information regarding the goals discussed in the September 30, 2023 Undergraduate Committee and extends an open invitation to fill the expanded representation that will comprise the Subcommittee. During that meeting I was elected Chair which I envision as a coordinator role, primarily organizing information presented by the various subcommittees. Faculty members who would be interested in participating in important curricular discussions that will inform the future organization and direction of the COAD are encouraged to consider volunteering to participate on this Curriculum Subcommittee.

If you are interested in participating in the Curriculum Subcommittee, please notify me and Dietmar Froehlich, the chair of the Undergraduate Committee.

Sincerely,

Tom Diehl