

COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Paper for: Discussion/Decision

Title: **Review of the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Undergraduate Core Education**

Purpose: To consider the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Undergraduate Core Education

Submitted by: Committee on Undergraduate Core Education

Prepared by: CUS Secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. The Committee on Undergraduate Core Education (CUCE) was established in December 2008 by the Senate as one of its standing committees and was subsequently repositioned in June 2012 as a sub-committee under the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (CUS). Its primary roles include advising and making recommendations to the CUS on policies, regulations, procedures, quality and performance relating to the University Common Core Program, as well as overseeing the provision of general education during the transition period from three-year to four-year undergraduate programs.

REVISED FRAMEWORK OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMON CORE PROGRAM

2. The existing Common Core Program was implemented for more than eight years from 2012. A revised framework of the Common Core Program was recommended by the University's Steering Committee on Review of the Common Core and was endorsed by the CUS at its 167th meeting on 13 January 2021 and approved by the Senate at its 153rd meeting on 3 February 2021.

3. It was proposed that the CUCE should maintain its leading role in overseeing the Common Core Program and expanded its functions to also oversee and recommend implementation of the Program during the transition period from the existing framework to the new framework. The Undergraduate Core Education (UCE) Team, Center for Education Innovation will continue be the executive arm for coordination and execution.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CUCE

4. In connection with the above, some adjustment in the terms of reference of the CUCE will be necessary to effect the required changes. The proposed revisions made to the terms of reference are highlighted in the Appendix. With only two students left under the three-year undergraduate curriculum, it is also recommended that the corresponding terms from the terms of reference be removed. Some editorial changes are also proposed.

5. The CUCE considered and endorsed at its 10 February 2021 meeting the proposal to revise the terms of reference of the CUCE as presented in the Appendix.

ACTION SOUGHT

6. CUS is invited to consider and approve as appropriate the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Undergraduate Core Education (CUCE), as presented in the Appendix, to take immediate effect.

Committee on Undergraduate Core Education

(Revisions are highlighted in yellow for easy reference)

Terms of reference

1. To advise and make recommendations to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies on policies and regulations, and to monitor and review procedures, quality and performance relating to the university core curriculum **in the four-year of** undergraduate degree programs, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) developing policies and regulations relating to the **university** core curriculum of **the four-year** undergraduate degree programs;
 - (b) developing guiding principles, criteria and learning outcomes for common core courses consistent with the objectives of the university core curriculum;
 - (c) reviewing and approving courses for inclusion in the University Common Core Program;
 - (d) coordinating and providing an overview of the offering of courses and activities for the university core curriculum;
 - (e) monitoring and reviewing periodically the quality of common core courses and the University Common Core Program under a quality assurance framework; and
 - (f) recommending implementation and other support for the university core curriculum.
- ~~2. To oversee the provision of general education in three-year undergraduate programs during the transition period from three-year to four-year undergraduate programs.~~
- 3. To oversee and recommend implementation of the University Common Core Program during the transition period from the existing 36-credit distributional framework to the new 30-credit scaffolding framework.**

Powers

1. To co-opt such additional voting members as may be required but not exceeding one-third of formal membership of the Committee.
2. To form any working groups as considered necessary.

Membership

Chairman:

Appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, on the recommendation of the Provost

- Professor Garvin Percy DIAS

Secretary and Member:

Academic Director (Undergraduate Core Education), *ex officio*

- Professor Kam Tim WOO

Members:

1. One representative each from the Schools of Science, Engineering, and Business & Management appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies in consultation with the Deans
 - Professor Bradley FOREMAN, School of Science
 - Professor Chii SHANG, School of Engineering
 - Professor Jing WANG, School of Business & Management
2. One representative from each of the two Divisions of the School of Humanities and Social Science appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies in consultation with the Dean of Humanities and Social Science
 - Dr Sai Lok NAM, Division of Humanities
 - Professor Agnes KU, Division of Social Science

3. One representative from the Center for Language Education appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies in consultation with the Dean of Humanities and Social Science
 - Mr Edward LI
4. One non-Freshman student nominated by the HKUST Students' Union and appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
 - Mr Ryan LEE
5. One member of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
 - Professor Stanley LAU

Co-opted Member:

1. One representative from the Interdisciplinary Programs Office nominated by the Director of the Interdisciplinary Programs Office
 - Professor Arthur LAU

Resource Persons:

1. Acting Dean of Students, or nominee
 - Professor King L. CHOW
2. Academic Registrar
 - Mr James PRINCE

Term:

For the student member, one year, renewable
For others, two years, renewable