

“Dean of Undergraduate Studies”

I. UK Board of Trustees: Curricular Instruction Happens in Educational Units That Report to a Dean

Under the controlling policies of the Board of Trustees, a kind of educational unit that delivers instruction is an “interdisciplinary instructional program,” Honors being an example of such an educational unit.

GR VII.A.1

“1. Definitions of Educational Units and Their Chief Administrative Officers

“Departments, schools, colleges, graduate centers, multidisciplinary research centers and institutes, and **interdisciplinary instructional programs** are the basic **educational units** of the University that deliver instruction, research, and service including extension activities.

“Some instructional programs draw faculty exclusively from one department, school, or college whereas **interdisciplinary instructional programs, such as the Honors Program**, draw faculty from different departments, schools, and colleges.”

II. UK Board of Trustees: The Kind of Educational Unit “Interdisciplinary Instructional Program” Must Report to a “Dean”

Under the controlling policies of the Board of Trustees, Honors, being an interdisciplinary instructional program kind of educational unit, is to report to a “Dean.”

GR VII.B.7

“Director/Chair of **Interdisciplinary Instructional Programs**

“The director/chair of an interdisciplinary instructional program shall be a member of one of the academic departments participating in the program.

“**The director/chair shall be responsible to the dean(s)** of the college(s) in which the program is located ...”

III. Honors Program Has Reported to “Dean of Undergraduate Studies”

The University Senate has acted to put areas of the University curriculum into the educational unit “Honors” within the explicit context that this educational unit and its homed instructional program reports to the “Dean of Undergraduate Studies.”

Senate Rule 1.4.3.4 (enacted by University Senate Dec. 12, 2012)

“The Honors Program is an educational program that leads to an academic graduation award (University Honors). This educational unit, an Interdisciplinary Instructional Program, reports to a dean (Dean of Undergraduate Studies). The Director (chief administrative officer) of the University Honors Program is the organizational equivalent of a department chair. (GR VII.A.1).”

IV. University Senate has Approved a Wide Array of Academic Responsibilities to be Held by the Academic Officer “Dean”, including “Dean of Undergraduate Studies”

The University Senate Rules in many places prescribe that an academic officer with the title “Dean” is officially responsible for decisions on cases of students and for leading the establishment of or change to educational policies that affect students. In the past, the University Senate has agreed for a number of students, courses and programs to have their ‘academic home’ not be in a ‘regular’ college but instead be under the Office of the Provost if the students, courses and programs report to an officer with the academic title “**Dean of Undergraduate Studies.**” These programs, courses and students include:

Curricular Programs

1. Over 2000 students with undeclared majors who are in the curriculum “Undergraduate Studies”
2. University Honors Program
3. Undergraduate Certificate of Global Studies

Courses

4. Courses number UK 101, KU 110, etc.
5. Courses prefixed EXP (Exploratory ... undeclared degree seeking students)
6. Courses prefixed HON
7. Courses prefixed HMN(Gaines Center courses)
8. Courses prefixed DSP courses (Disciplinary Seminar Program; no courses at this time but ‘shell’ is there)

Students

9. Student advising to undeclared majors in the “Undergraduate Studies Program”: All academic administrative activities concerning cases of individual studies that are assigned by the Senate Rules to a college dean, for students who are undeclared degree seeking and for students who are enrolled in the above courses.

Note that for any other University course and University program that the University Senate has approved for homing in a particular college (led by a Dean), if the Provost were to want to reassign that course or program to the responsibility away from that college/dean, the Provost would be required to first solicit the official recommendation of the University Senate.

V. Uncertain Current Status of “Dean of Undergraduate Studies”

Upon coming to office in August of 2013, Provost Riordan, perhaps unaware of the above academic context, decided not to continue the title “Dean of Undergraduate Studies” in the Provost’s Office. Instead, the Provost has by intraoffice administrative action assigned the above academic duties to a non-Dean title that is not recognized for those duties by the University Senate Rules.

VI. Recommendation

The SREC recommends that the Senate Council discuss this matter and determine the most effective course of interaction with the Provost to effectuate a restoration that the above are the responsibility of a person carrying the academic title “Dean of Undergraduate Studies.” (The person may also have additional titles and responsibilities determined by the Provost).