**Senate Rules and Elections Committee**

**November 30, 2011**

**Jones (Chair), Brion, Wood, Blonder, Grossman, Pienkowski**

**The SREC discussed the following items**

1. **Distance Learning as defined by CPE/SACS**

**Jones shared correspondence received from Jeannine Blackwell and Heidi Anderson concerning the definitions that UK needs to comply with for ‘distance learning’ vs. ‘correspondence courses.’  At present, the Senate Rules only contain a provision for the ‘old style paper correspondence courses’ but have no provisions concerning educational policies for ‘new electronic distance learning.’  The definitions provided by CPE/SACS did not in the SREC’s view provide a definitional distinction between the two.  Connie Wood suggested that Jones contact Jeannine Blackwell for a copy of an policy interpretation rendered ca. 10 years ago by then-Provost Mike Nietzel of what constitutes distance learning. The SREC also noted that an ad hoc committee of the Senate Council is working on definition of ‘credit hour’ for the different kinds of course formats, and that the committee ought to be asked to include devising a definition of ‘credit hour’ for distance learning that is informed by the CPE/SACS definitions.**

Administrative Note: After the meeting, Jeannine Blackwell offered the clarification that the most distinguishing feature of ‘distance learning’ vs. ‘correspondence courses’ is that the correspondence courses are self-paced by the student. Jeannine Blackwell also urged that when the Senate Rules are revised to include definition of distance learning, that it not delete the reference to the ‘old paper correspondence courses’ even though none of those are now being taught. She said SACS/CPE will be in the future making the distinction that an electronic ‘distance learning’ format that is ‘self-paced’ will become distinguished from those that are not, and that distinction will need to be incorporated at that time into the Senate Rules.

1. **Distinction Between Undergraduate Certificate and a Minor**

**The SREC examined the proposed definitions provided by the Undergraduate Council. The SREC made the following assessments to be transmitted to Associate Provost Mike Mullen:**

* 1. **It appears that the definitions drafted by the Undergraduate Council might not have been informed by the very recent definitions provided by the CPE; the UC ought examine those definitions for how they impinge on what the UC drafted.**
  2. **The UC should please recommend policy for the Senate to discuss on**
* **What is the number of credit hours for a major (in the ‘old days’ it was 40, but that policy seems to have become lost from the Senate Rules without a clear replacing policy**
* **Can a minor be completed outside of a degree program?**
* **What ought be the policy on the minimum number of credit hours for a minor (i.e, the word “typically” in the draft definition makes that there is not an enforceable policy)**
* **Is one policy feature of a minor that the number of required credit hours will, or will not, exceed half the number of credit hours required for the major?**

1. **The SREC continued to discuss the draft revisions to SR 3.2.0**