

Course censorship committee 2010/2011

In 2010/2011—while I am on no-pay leave—a large number of fragmentary pieces of information on course transitioning arrive in my email inbox. I must convert my Chinese economy course and my East Asian economic development course to common core courses, or otherwise I will be made to teach a “signature course” (some social science overview course).

I am told my third-year undergraduate courses cannot have prerequisites, meaning students must not know any economics when they embark on discussing the Chinese economy or East Asian economic development. I am told my two undergraduate courses, as I taught them in the past and propose to teach them in the future, are PhD level courses. When a colleague wants to teach a similar upper-level undergraduate course on the Chinese economy, my “PhD level course” is downgraded to a second-year undergraduate course without any further mentioning of the PhD level of my course.

At some point, I stop responding to the demands of the censorship committee. As far as I recall, the colleague in SOSOC in charge of handling the course transitioning made further changes to my course descriptions as required by the censorship committee, and my courses, revised and rewritten by different people, may have become common core courses. If they did: I never teach these “common core” courses and they presumably disappeared after three years.

Here is an example of the kinds of emails I received:

From: Aerica [omitted]
Sent: Friday, 15 July, 2011 9:31 AM
[Via some secretary to me, Carsten Holz]
Subject: Stage 2 Migration Review for Existing GE Courses from SHSS – Batch 5

Dear [Dean and one other person],

Attached is a memo detailing the comments of the Course Review Panel (SA) for the fifth batch of 13 existing GE courses and 1 new course intended to be signature course from SHSS. These comments are meant to clarify how the course ILOs are aligned to the SA common core area ILOs, and in what ways the TLAs and ATAs are deployed to achieve the course ILOs. Your kind consideration is appreciated.

The revised forms, if any, together with the course developers' response to the Panel's comments could be returned to the UCEO preferably by 29 July 2011 (Friday). If you have any questions about the CRP's comments, please feel free to contact me [omitted] or Miss Aerica [omitted] of UCEO.

Thank you.

King L Chow
Director of Undergraduate Core Education Office (UCEO)