

Undergraduate Curriculum Implementation

Green Paper: Highlights

Ryerson University Senate

May 7, 2013

Why this matters

- **Greater student choice**
Within and external to their core
- **Facilitating more curricular options in programs**
Such as combined majors, minors
- **Mandated breadth over time**
- **More cohesive curriculum policy**
Easier to modify when appropriate

Curriculum Implementation Committee

- Established June 2012
- Mandated to:
 - Identify key principles comprising the general goals of the new curricular structure
 - Further elaborate draft Policy 2
 - Make policy implementation recommendations
 - Hold at least one round of public consultations

Principles

- Career-relevant education

With sufficient rigour and depth

- Students have more flexibility to define their own educational goals

- Mandated breadth over time

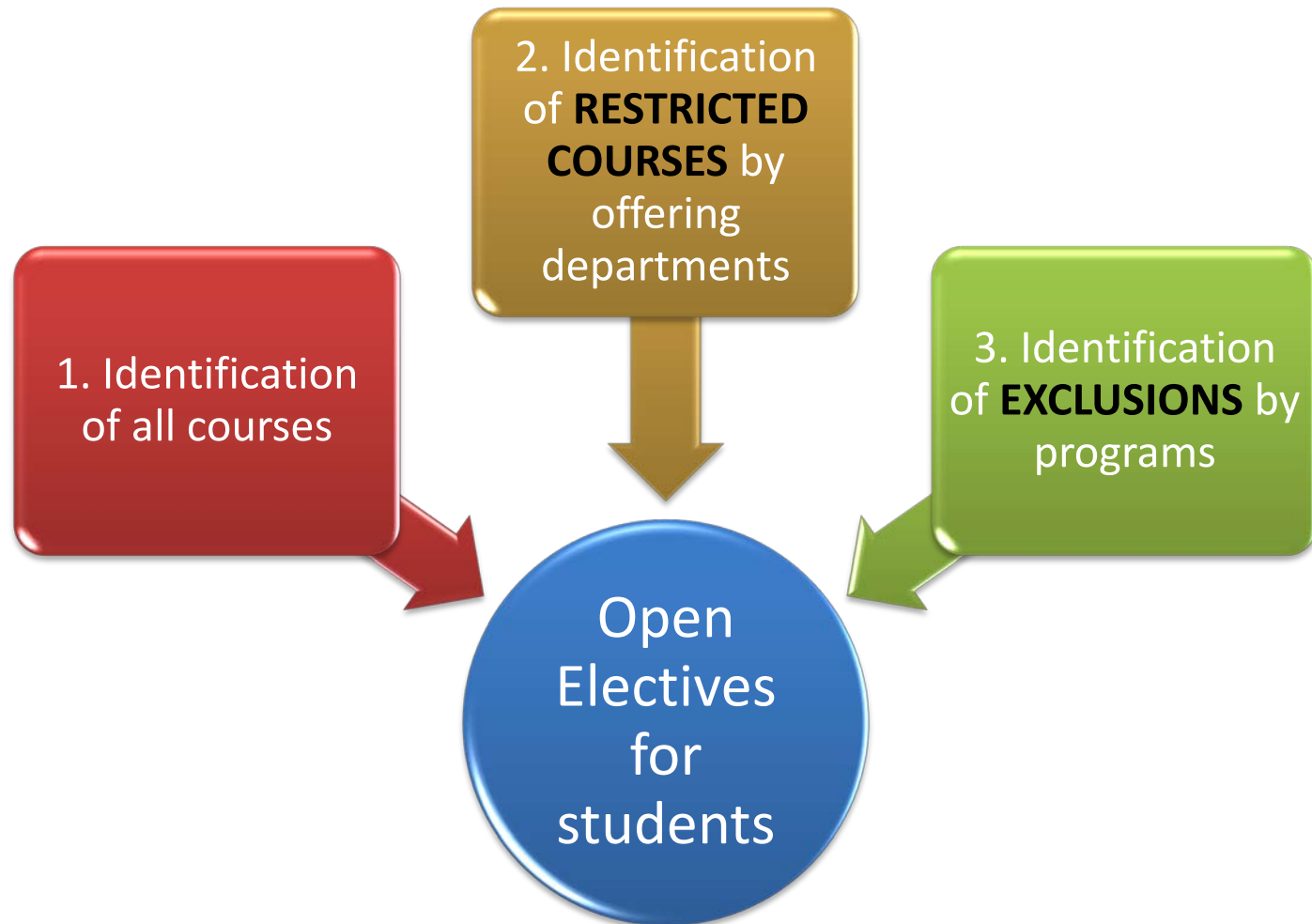
- UDLEs as a framework to define graduate attributes

Curriculum supports these educational goals (e.g., critical thinking and analytical skills, communication, knowledge of methodologies, application of knowledge and its limitations etc.).

Committee focus to date

1. Establish a pool of Open Elective (OE) courses
2. Explore a game plan for mandated breadth

Implementation – Open Electives



Implementation – Open Electives

Strategies to establish a pool/list of OEs:

1. List self-selected by programs
2. All courses in minors

Implementation – Open Electives

- Potential pool of OEs

Combines reported courses and courses in minors:

Reported OEs	= 696 (35 are liberal studies)
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Courses in minors not on OE list	= 171
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Total	= 867
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- Number of programs = 56
- Number reporting = 30 (54%)

Open Electives Pilot

Task	Responsibility	Deadline
Compile list of minor courses	Office of the VP, Academic	Completed – April 2013
Modification of self-reported list	Office of the VP, Academic	Completed – April 2013
Combine above	Office of the VP, Academic	Completed – April 2013
Expand Departments/Schools reporting lists of OEs	Office of the VP, Academic	Ongoing
Vet lists to offering departments and pilot programs	Departments/Schools	Late April/early May
Review and approval of combined list by Academic Standards	Academic Standards	May 2013
Approval of list by Senate	Senate	June 2013
Implementation of list by RO	Registrar's Office	June – July 2013
Rollout	Programs	September 2013

Mandated Breadth

*“...expose students to **varied and diverse ways of seeing the world** ... develop their capacity to **understand and critically appraise** the issues and context of a discipline outside their major ... and specifically expose ... students to varied types and methods of **reasoning and analysis**, and modes of **communication**.”*

Definition of breadth in draft Policy 2

Mandated Breadth

Plan 1 – Multiple Categories

- Categories:

Humanities | Social Sciences | Science and Engineering | Business |
Communication and Design | Community Services

- Students must take breadth electives from at least 3 categories outside core area of study
- Result: major re-distribution of enrollments across campus

Mandated Breadth

Plan 2: Other category

- Categories:
Humanities | Social Science | “Other”
- Students take all their breadth outside their core area
- Over time: Other → more specific categories
Described on previous slide

Mandated Breadth

Plan 2 – Flagship Electives

- Flagship Electives
 - Introduced in each category
 - Large lecture format, meet the definition of breadth
 - Used to meet mandated breadth or open elective requirements

Mandated Breadth

Ongoing Considerations

- Redistribution of enrolments and resources
More gradual roll out of the framework
- Routes to ensuring course offerings, and enrolment space, are available in each faculty to provide choice
SCIF helps, but may need something more

Writing Courses

- **Draft Policy 2 definition seems appropriate**

Individually written, out-of-class assignments, analysis of the subject, evaluative/comparative/explicatory judgment, feedback on technical aspects

- **Suggest retaining the upper and lower-level categories**

Lower: 1200 – 1500 words; Upper – 1500 – 2000 words.

Ongoing Challenges

- Scheduling
 - Model suggests students in programs with less prescribed curricula can access reasonable ranges of liberal studies/minor courses
- Supply and Demand
 - Very hard to get good data
 - Flagship electives help meet demand

Proposed Rollout – as per Green Paper

Timing	Program
2013/2014 Pilot phase	Professional Communications Biomedical Sciences
2014/2015	Other new programs Ex: Real Estate Management
2015/2016	Creative Industries All Faculty of Arts programs*
2016/2017	All TRSM programs
2017/2018	All remaining programs

*** Likely to extend given enrolment distribution issues.**

Immediate Next Steps

- Finalize the Open Electives list
- Propose that Senate formally approve a pilot for 2013/2014 at June Senate (two programs)
- Draft White Paper for Senate review – Summer
- Broad consultation – Fall 2013
- Revised policy 2 for Senate approval Fall 2013

Feedback needed

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