

# BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

## DIRECTORY OF POLICY STATEMENTS

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**Subject: Interdisciplinary Units**

### Definition of Interdisciplinary Unit

- An Interdisciplinary Unit is a group of self-selected faculty and staff members who come together by virtue of their interests and expertise to develop academic programs or curriculum. Interdisciplinary Units are sponsored or co-sponsored by deans of the college and are formed at the request of faculty members seeking to expand programs into areas not offered by or not appropriate for current departments.
- Faculty members connected to an Interdisciplinary Unit will be called faculty associates. An Interdisciplinary Unit will consist of a minimum of five faculty associates.
- The faculty associate who manages the Interdisciplinary Unit will be called the coordinator.
- Staff members connected to an Interdisciplinary Unit will be called staff associates.

### Governance

- The College Senate will be consulted prior to formation of an Interdisciplinary Unit.
- Interdisciplinary Units will be approved by all academic deans and the provost.
- Interdisciplinary Units will report to a dean to be determined by the provost.
- Interdisciplinary Units will establish and be governed by self-generated bylaws, which shall be kept on file by the designated dean's office.
- Interdisciplinary Units will have a coordinator.
- Faculty associates will have the authority to create curricula and academic programs.
- An Interdisciplinary Unit will be the body of record for submission of curricula for approval by faculty governance bodies.
- Interdisciplinary Units will seek cross-fertilization among existing departments and cross-list courses whenever appropriate.

### Faculty and Staff Associates

Commensurate with their departmental, unit, or staff contracts and MOUs, the duties and responsibilities of faculty and staff associates will be delineated within the bylaws of the Interdisciplinary Unit.

### Coordinator

The coordinator of an interdisciplinary unit will:

- Be a full-time, tenure-track assistant, associate, or full professor.
- Be elected by a simple majority vote of the faculty associates and be approved by the dean associated with the unit and the provost.
- Oversee the program.
- Conduct regular meetings of the faculty and staff associates.
- Be compensated following established past practice of the college for faculty with similar administrative responsibilities.

#### Allocation of Enrollment and Completions

- For courses with an interdisciplinary unit prefix, student credit hours from that course are to be assigned to the academic department to which the course instructor belongs.
- Members of the interdisciplinary unit will propose a formula to apportion program enrollment and completions to the participating academic departments. The academic deans will make a recommendation on the proposal to the provost, who will have approval authority for this formula.

#### Functions of the Interdisciplinary Unit

- The unit will maintain course and other requirements for its program, referring recommended program changes, as appropriate, to the Dean and to the Curriculum Committee.
- The unit will stimulate, through existing departments, the development and offering of appropriate courses and coordinate course offerings for the completion of majors and minors.
- The unit will recommend departmental courses for cross-listing to indicate department courses applicable to the interdisciplinary unit.
- The unit will recruit and advise students, check audit sheets for the unit program, and perform such other administrative tasks for its program as may be necessary.

#### Membership of the Interdisciplinary Unit

- Faculty may gain membership in an interdisciplinary unit (1) by application (in instances where there is no existing School or (2) by recommendations of the Faculty of the existing interdisciplinary unit, with the approval of the faculty member's primary department, the Dean of the School, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The faculty of the unit may teach, advise, or otherwise contribute to the program. The specific expectations for that faculty appointment will be designated at the time of the appointment.