

**Undergraduate Studies Council
Charges for 2008-2009**

In addition to the eight specific responsibilities and functions noted in the Undergraduate Studies Council's role statement and the work of the USC standing committees, the Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the USC to consider, as a committee of the whole or through the appropriate sub-committee or task force, the following issues:

1. Review the scope and description of the role statement and standing charges and assess the effectiveness of council practices.
2. Examine both the mission and goals of general education and evaluate how well the current program meets those goals, including the Baccalaureate writing requirement. This assessment should involve the Committee to Oversee General Education (COGE) as a major standing committee of the USC, but it is expected that this assessment will be conducted by a committee of the whole to take advantage of the overview provided by the entire USC membership.
3. Assess ongoing efforts to integrate University wide assessment activities and formulate recommendations for USC participation.
4. Review the availability of resources and services to foster student retention and develop recommendations for enhancing them if determined necessary. Examples might include but not be limited to the First Year Experience, mid-term grade reporting, grading scales (i.e. +/-).
5. Assess the issue of safety in the classroom and identify policies and procedures for dealing with the physical and emotional safety of students and faculty. Work with the Ombuds, the Office of Student Conduct and the University attorney to determine the scope of the issues and, if possible, to frame recommendations for policies and training.
6. Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as deemed necessary by the council. To the extent possible conclude any outstanding initiative by producing a memorandum of action (MOA), report or resolution.

NOTE: It is understood that the USC will seek information from all administrative offices necessary to carry out its charges. The USC is expected to keep the Senate Executive Board apprised of progress, especially in connection with any MOA it may develop, and to give advance notice of any action the USC seeks to place on the Senate agenda, including the final text of any proposed MOA, report or resolution. The Executive Board should also be notified of substantive procedural issues addressed by the USC. The USC shall provide a written summary of its progress on the above charges and any other activities undertaken no later than June 30, 2009.