UCC 4/26/2021 S. FRISTED

At UW-River Falls, the University Curriculum Committee is responsible for more than reviewing and modifying courses for students. The task of modifying a class may seem simple but in reality is a complex process. Sam Fristed has the story.

R/T: 87 seconds O/C: STD

SAM FRISTED: “THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE AT UW-RIVER FALLS PROVIDES ESSENTIAL BEHIND THE SCENES WORK FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CLASSES ON CAMPUS. OTHER UCC OPERATIONS INCLUDE BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR UPDATING CURRENT COURSES, CHANGING COURSE CONTENT, TITLES, CREDITS AND NUMBERS CHAIRMAN KAYLEE SPENCER SAID.”

KAYLEE SPENCER: “DURING THE MEETINGS, AND WE USUALLY MEET EVERY OTHER WEEK, ALL ACADEMIC YEAR AND WE DISCUSS THE COURSE PROPOSALS. THE OTHER THING WE DO IS WE KIND OF LOOK OUT FOR POTENTIAL OVERLAPS OF COURSES THAT EXIST IN DIFFERENT COLLEGES.”

SAM FRISTED: “SPENCER EXPLAINED HOW THE PROCESS FOR APPROVING A COURSE WORKS. THE PROCESS STARTS WHEN A FACULTY MEMBER WITHIN A COLLEGE DEPARTMENT FILLS OUT AN ONLINE FORM PROPOSING WHAT MODIFICATIONS THE COURSE NEEDS. FROM THERE, THE REQUEST FORM IS SENT TO UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS WHERE THEY REVIEW THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS. THEN THE FORM GETS SENT TO THE UCC WHERE A MEETING IS HELD AND A VOTE DETERMINES THE OUTCOME. DESPITE ALL THESE STEPS, MOST CLASSES DON’T GET REJECTED.”

KAYLEE SPENCER: “SO IT’S RARELY A CASE OF REJECTION BUT IT’S USUALLY A CASE OF CLARIFYING OR ADDING SLIGHT MODIFICATION TO HOW IT’S WRITTEN UP. SO IT’S ALMOST NEVER REJECTED BECAUSE THERE’S SUCH AN INVESTMENT IN WORKING WITH THAT AUTHOR TO FIX IT.”

SAM FRISTED: “SPENCER SAID HER FAVORITE PART OF BEING ON THE UCC IS SEEING WHAT OTHER COLLEGE DEPARTMENTS ARE DOING. SHE SAID IT HELPS HER GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS ARE DOING WITHIN THEIR CURRICULUM. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M SAM FRISTED.”

Spencer said the UCC always remains busy as its modifies an average of 200 courses per academic year. Spencer will be stepping down as chairman this summer and the position will be filled by longtime committee member Alex Tupan.

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