

5 February 2002

To: University Faculty Council  
From: Bob Eno, Co-Chair, UFC-EPC  
Subj: Preliminary Discussion of Interim Reform of the Master Course Inventory

Last Spring, the UFC passed a plan to reform the way in which the Master Course Inventory – the master list of all courses approved to be offered on IU campuses – is maintained and employed. The plan was not adopted as policy because of uncertainty about whether its prescribed timetable could be accommodated during the period of transition to PeopleSoft. We now know that implementation will not, in fact, be feasible for years to come.

A chief motive of the plan was to ensure that current efforts to align identically numbered course offerings throughout the system not be undermined by continued use of current MCI procedures, which allow campuses to adopt courses from the MCI without detailed information about how they are configured on other campuses where they are taught, and with no process of inter-campus remonstrance. In order to accomplish this goal, it is essential that these issues are addressed in a narrowly focused policy that will serve as an interim control on MCI use until it becomes feasible to implement as policy an updated version of last year's UFC-approved plan.

For this reason, the following policy has been proposed for email discussion by the UFC-EPC. Due to the short time remaining before the final UFC opportunity for timely action in April, I hope that it can be introduced for brief preliminary discussion in the UFC meeting of February 12, so that the EPC consideration can be informed by initial comments from UFC members.

“Units planning to initiate new campus offerings through the adoption of course listings from the Master Course Inventory must request that the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs report which, if any, IU campuses currently offer the course in question, and that the VPAA collect and forward examples of syllabi and other pertinent information about recent offerings of the course on relevant IU campuses. The initiating unit will formulate a proposed syllabus in awareness of practices on other campuses, to be circulated for remonstrance among campuses currently offering the course. Disagreements as to whether the proposed offering is adequately comparable to existing offerings to be designated with an identical number will be adjudicated by the UFC Committee on Course Comparability.”

*Note:* The “UFC Committee on Course Comparability” is a title proposed for an interim standing version of the current “UFC ICT Committee.”