Enhancing Undergraduate Education

Great Places in PARK(ing) Spaces:

Envisioning Cities

When: Thursday, September 21, 2007

Where: Kroeber Hall Plaza, near the fountain between Wheeler Hall & Bancroft Avenue

By the Transportation Planning/Geo City Planning/144/Civil Engineering

We thank our host departments, the University of California Transportation Center, and UC faculty & staff for their support.
“Experiencing overjoyment… priceless”

(photo: K. Frick)
Key Questions

1) What additional skills would benefit undergraduates? What would they like to learn?

2) How would they like to learn?

3) How can we phase in a lower cost, sustainable educational options across the UCTC campuses?
What We’ve Done in FY2009-10 So Far

• Focus groups with 35 Berkeley students, diverse cross section

• Discussions with UCTC faculty (will continue with exec board tomorrow)

• UCLA goods movement & logistics course, Spring 09

• Mentor to 14 undergrads in city planning course

Special thanks to Justin Shiu, our first “post undergraduate”
Take-away # 1 – Skills & Interests

- Mainly interested in “what the real world does”—hand on, tangible experiences
- Would like to go in-depth on planning, engineering (research)
- Need to improve oral and writing skills, esp for policy settings
- Advice on jobs, graduate school
- Receive course credit
Take-away # 2 – 
*Develop New Initiative*

“Center for Undergraduate Innovation”

– Multi-campus, tailored to needs of campus, phased in. Could include:
  
  • summer internship with a UCTC associate director (modeled after USDOT STPDG)
  • attendance at California UTC and UCTC student conferences (fee waiver or discount)
  • post undergraduate papers on UCTC website
  • info on grad school & internships, mentorships, scholarships
Potentially at individual campuses

– 1 to 2 week intersession course*

– 1 to 2 unit course during term*

– Traveling colloquium (field trips/site visits to projects & offices to see the real world)

– Lecture series with practitioners

* Students suggest real world project with client or special topics
Studio Course—client based, hands on—like a mini public dept or consulting firm

Undergraduate studio

if grad. studio: undergraduates could enroll

Juju Wang as undergraduate in grad. studio, currently a grad student
Next Steps

Discuss & develop action plan with exec committee

Additional outreach at other campuses, discuss with academic advisors

Spring graduate studio at Berkeley—encourage undergraduate enrollment, particularly from current set of advisees this semester

(photo: K. Frick)