I-Series Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: What does the "I" in I-Series stand for?
A: Courses bearing ther University's signature will investigate significant issues with imagination and intellect with a belief that they will inspire future investigation and provide concrete mechanisms to implement innovative ideas. Not surprisingly, the Committee has tentatively called the courses the "I"-Series: Issues, Imagination, Intellect, Investigation, Inspiration, and Implementation.

Q: Will submissions from an individual faculty member be given lesser priority than courses submitted through the college?
A: All proposals the task force receives, that meet the I-Series criteria, will be considered on the same footing. The option to work through the college was included to try to involve Deans in the process and to open as many avenues for proposals as possible.

Q: What precisely is meant by an "overload" course?
A: In this instance, overload is meant to connote the extra work of designing and implementing a new course (or re-working an existing one). It is not meant to be an addition to a faculty member’s workload, although this would be a matter for individual departments to decide.

Q: Will I-Series courses taught in spring 2010 count as CORE?
A: Yes, the courses will have one-time CORE status, and thus count towards a department’s existing CORE commitment for the semester. They also, of course, count towards a student’s CORE requirements.
Q: Who is eligible to propose and teach an I-Series course?

A: All I-Series courses will be taught by tenured and tenure-track faculty or by full-time lecturers or professors of the practice. Adjunct faculty and lecturers are not eligible, at least for spring 2010, to propose an I-Series course. Faculty will be named in the proposal.

Q: Could an I-Series course be team-taught?

A: In theory, yes. Some of the existing Marquee courses are team-taught. However, the $5000 overload payment will be given on a course-by-course basis, not on a per faculty basis.

Q: Is there a limit on how many I-Series courses a college can teach?

A: There is no formal limit. The goal is for 20 I-Series courses for the spring, and we would like at least one course from each academic college.

Q: Could the I-Series Q&A session be moved forward from Sept 29th?

A: Possibly some member or members of the committee could make themselves available before the 29th. Watch this space.

Q: How essential is the Sept 29th Q&A session?

A: The Q&A session is designed to clarify any misunderstandings, but it is certainly not critical that anyone attends.

Q: What is the role of the marquee courses in the new I-Series?

A: In inception and development the "I" series drew on the experience of the marquee courses. It seems likely that many of those courses which have been taught under the marquee head could be transformed into "I" series courses.

Q: What is the approval procedure by deans and chairs of departments?

A: For the spring 2010 pilot only 20 courses total are required, which equates to only one or two per college and certainly no more than three. The I-Series courses have CORE approval, so presumably they will be substituting for a CORE course (although the exact seat count may be different). The Provost is paying for each course's TA, which will be a saving for the sponsoring department and colleges.