



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, President
RE: President's Response to Senate Actions
DATE: May 12, 2023

Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting on April 14, 2023, which were approved electronically on April 26, 2023. All program approvals are made contingent upon the department's commitment to staff the changes out of existing internal funds. Note that Section 3.6.2 of the Board of Regents Policy Manual states, *inter alia*: "The termination of educational programs, degrees, or majors shall be submitted to the Chancellor for review and recommendation for action by the Board of Regents." So, all program, degree, and major terminations (as well as additions) need to be approved by the Board. Our requests should include the rationale and the plan for addressing the needs of existing students.

Committee I: Undergraduate Programs Committee (Kim Green, Chair)

Action Items:

- A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
 - 1) Department of English, Film, Languages, and Performing Arts
 - a) English, B.A. (Accelerated Bachelors to Masters (ABM) in English Education Track)
Request: Revise
 - b) English, B.A. (Secondary Education Track)
Request: Revise

The two proposals for the English B.A. program tracks will be voted on as a block because the rationale for revising both tracks is the same. The revision applies to the Accelerated Bachelors to Masters in English Education track and the Secondary Education track (listed below). The proposal removes three education courses (EDUC 2110, EDUC 2120, and EDUC 2130) from the major requirements for the degree. The USG Board of Regents no longer requires these courses, and the UWG College of Education has stated that the courses are now optional. We have approved similar changes from other programs already this year.

Items a) and b) were taken as a block and approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- 2) Department of Natural Sciences
 - a) Biology, General Biology Track, B.S.
Request: Revise
 - b) Biology, Professional Preparation Track,
B.S. Request: Revise

The two proposals for the Biology B.S. program tracks will be voted on as a block because the rationale for revising both tracks is the same. The proposal applies to the General Biology track and the Professional Preparation track. There are two changes. First, BIOL 4984 Senior Biology Seminar is being stated as a required course for majors in both the list of courses in the curriculum and the curriculum schema. Second, the Biology (3000/4000) elective hours are increased from 0 – 20 to 0 – 29 credit hours (and the Electives (3000/4000) hours are reduced from 0 – 18 to 0 – 9 credit hours) to require more biology electives and fewer general electives.

Items a) and b) were taken as a block and approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- B) School of Communications, Film, and Media
 - 1) COMM 1121 - Experiential Learning Lab
Request: Add

This class allows students to earn credit for participation in the school's multiple Experiential Learning Labs (such as Wolf Radio or WUTV among others). Students can participate as trainees, volunteers, and paid staff. It is a variable-credit course that is repeatable up to six hours.

Discussion:

Q: Should a pass/fail class be zero credits?

A: credits are variable based on work, fits QEP. Chair Reber: yes, there is precedent.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 2) COMM 4221 - Health Communication Campaigns
Request: Add

The content of a current course (COMM 4220 Health Communication) is being split into two separate courses to support the new Health Communication Certificate. This new course focuses on media and campaigns. As information, the existing course will modify its focus to the interpersonal aspects of health communication in patient-provider interactions and healthcare organizations (but that revision does not require Senate action).

Item approved with 42 in favor, 1 opposed, and zero abstentions.

I accept this motion.

3) Health Communication Certificate
Request: Add

This 12-hour certificate provides the opportunity to focus on communication in the healthcare context. Students will learn how various factors (demographics, personality, communication styles, personal history, cultural background) impact patient-provider interactions and public health messaging. The certificate can be useful, specifically, for future healthcare providers or students preparing to work in public health but also more generally for many students to be prepared to be engaged patients communicating about their own healthcare.

Item approved with 42 in favor, 1 opposed, and zero abstentions.

I accept this motion.

- C) University College
a) Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
1) XIDS - 2300 - Connecting with youth from "high risk" settings
Request: Add

This course covers models and processes for connecting educators, students, and knowledge in ways that build relationships with youth that come from "high-risk" settings to support their learning and engagement. The foundation disciplines for this course are psychology, philosophy, and sociology. The course will count in Area E4.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

Committee II: Graduate Programs Committee (Patrick Hadley, Chair)

Action Items:

- A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
1) Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology
a) Psychology, M.A.
Request: Revise

When the requirement for the GRE was removed in an early Senate approval, the letter of recommendation requirement was inadvertently removed. The need for three letters of recommendation has been added to the admission requirements.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- B) College of Education
1) Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech Language Pathology
a) SPLA 5701 Introduction to Communication Sciences and Disorders
Request: Add

- b) SPLA 5702 Speech and Language Acquisition and Disorders
Request: Add
- c) SPLA 5703 Phonetics
Request: Add
- d) SPLA 5704 Anatomy & Physiology of Speech & Hearing
Request: Add
- e) SPLA 5705 Speech and Hearing Science
Request: Add
- f) SPLA 5706 Introduction to Audiology
Request: Add
- g) SPLA 5707 Introduction to Neurological Disorders
Request: Add

The courses B.1.a.-g. are required for the proposed new post-baccalaureate certificate in speech-language pathology and were voted on as a block. Proposal responds to growing demand in the US, which is projected to grow 21%, much faster than all other occupations. Students have few options for this without this certificate. Correct to SLPA in minutes.

Items a) through g) were taken as a block and approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- h) Speech-Language Pathology Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program
Request: Add

The proposal for a post-graduate certificate in Speech-Language Pathology responds to a growing demand for speech-language pathologists in the United States. Employment of speech-language pathologists is projected to grow 21 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 14,000 openings for speech-language pathologists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. Students who do not have an undergraduate degree in speech-language pathology have few options to gain the necessary prerequisite courses to effectively and efficiently apply to graduate programs. In particular, there are no other programs in the West Georgia region that allow for this opportunity.

Discussion:

Q: how is it anticipated that this certification could impact the master's program enrollment and does it change teaching certification (not the same as having a full master's degree).

A: Jairus-Joaquin Matthews: allows greater pool of people to apply, will not impact master's level acceptance rates and will not be eligible to serve as SLPA assistants, only ability to apply to graduate programs. Bridge to apply to master's degree if they do not already have a bachelor's degree. Allows us to capture students who want to be at our university instead of referring to other schools.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- 2) Department of Early Childhood through Secondary Education
 - a) SEED 6270 Technology in the Math and Science Class
Request: Add

This course has been taught during the Fall of 2021 and Fall 2022 under the SEED 6285 special topics course designation. The course has proven to be beneficial and popular with students and appropriately needs its own course number in the program curriculum.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 3) Department of Educational Technology and Foundations
 - a) Instructional Technology Non-Degree Program
Request: Revise

Removal of Non-Degree SLM Option: the program has transitioned the Non-Degree SLM option existing within this program to a Certificate Program and they want to remove the non-degree option so that all students can route through the Certificate Option. Program of Study changes: Currently, the IT Certification classes across degree programs are inconsistent.

When the program aligned to the new Georgia Professional Standards Commission IT standards, it aligned the standards to the same courses across all degree programs (MEDT 7464, MEDT 7490, and MEDT 7476). For this reason, the program proposes changing the Instructional Technology Certification segment of the Program to reflect these courses; the program will add an additional IT Focused Core, which will include MEDT 7468. The purpose of this change is to make the IT Certification courses consistent across all degree programs.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 4) Department of Leadership, Research, and School Improvement
 - a) Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Data Analysis and Evaluation Methods
Request: Revise

The certificate program has been recently transferred from the College of Social Sciences to the College of Education and has an interdisciplinary focus. Therefore, the department wants to revise the admission requirements to make the program more inclusive and attractive for all UWG students as well as external applicants. Current admission criteria specify that graduate students in the College of Social Sciences would only submit the application form. This revision allows University of West Georgia graduate students to pursue the certificate without submitting an application form. The program also wants to remove, for all applicants, the requirement of submitting three letters of recommendation to avoid the inherent delays in the application process.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- C) Tanner Health System School of Nursing
 - 1) NURS 6122 Health Systems Leadership Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum I
Request: Revise

American Association of Colleges of Nursing requirement of increased 500 hours of clinical time and this course covers a portion of these 500 hours. This only builds in additional clinical hours.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 2) NURS 6123 Health Systems Leadership Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum II
Request: Revise

Certification requirements increased clinical hours to 500 total for the program. The ratio was increased from 4:1 to 5:1. Same rationale as the previous course (NURS 6122).

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- D) University College
 - 1) Department of Civic Engagement and Public Service
 - a) Master of Public Administration, M.P.A.
Request: Revise

The program wants to modify two requirements in the current policy: GRE scores and the length of the personal statement. Many other MPA programs have already removed the GRE requirement, and this trend is expected to continue. By removing this requirement, the program can remain competitive. In particular, most MPA students have already been in service for several years after graduating from their undergraduate degrees. Requiring the GRE as part of the admission process may create an additional burden for these students when applying to the program. In addition, we want to remove the length requirement of "1000 words." Removing the minimum length requirement allows applicants to tailor their statements to what they want to say, rather than trying to meet a specific length. It also allows for more flexibility in the application process, making it easier for applicants to apply. The quality of the personal statement is more important than the length.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

Committee IV: Faculty Development Committee (Farooq Khan, Chair)

Action Item (Figure 4)

- A) Changes of UWG Handbook following BOR-mandated Post-Tenure Review and Annual Evaluation Policy Changes.

A typo was discovered on page 186 of agenda, in the addendum for this item. Dr. Khan reviewed the language and clarified that “may” should be used instead of the stated “may must.” A friendly amendment was motioned, seconded, and passed with 41 in favor, zero opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Item approved with 42 in favor, zero opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

Committee V: Institutional Planning Committee (Jonathan Corley, Chair)

Action Item (Figure 6):

- A) Update membership of the Institutional Planning Committee to reflect current administrative organization.

Previous title of accreditation and enrollment was split into two new positions. This item increases the membership number and refines titles to accurately reflect membership. A typo was discovered: Associate Vice President should be changed to Executive Director. A friendly amendment to make this change was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Discussion:

Q: do both administrative roles have to part of the committee? Concern of adding more administrators.

A: in order to maintain full coverage, the recommendation was to add both positions. Administrators do not vote.

Item approved with 37 in favor, 2 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

7. New Business

A. Chair-Elect nomination.

- Blynne Olivieri Parker was nominated. She will also be serving as the chair of the Budget committee. All those nominated and self-nominated will have time to discuss and accept or decline nomination with Chair Reber.*
- Self-nominations were solicited by Chair Reber, but none were provided. The Senate will continue to search for two nominees, with a goal to have them in place by April 28th. Faculty are encouraged to talk with Dr. Reber.*

B. Parliamentarian nomination: Martin McPhail.

Dr. McPhail accepted the nomination.

Vote to accept: 38 in favor, zero opposed, and 3 abstentions.

I thank Dr. McPhail and Ms. Olivieri Parker for their service in these roles.