



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, President
RE: President's Response to Senate Actions
DATE: October 19, 2022

Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting on October 14, 2022, which were approved electronically on October 17, 2022. 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, Language, and Performing Arts
 - a) Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Request: Add

This is a standalone certificate requiring a total of 15 credit hours. The certificate aligns with trends in demographics and academic focus on this region. The proposal arises out of student interest expressed by groups such as the Latinx Cultural Society. The Latin American studies minor at UWG has been dormant for quite some time, and this certificate offers an option for students interested in this area. This proposal can be implemented with existing resources.

Item approved with 43 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 2) Department of Natural Sciences
 - a) Geography, B.S.
Request: Modify

The changes pertain to the courses required for the Environmental Sustainability concentration. First, change in 9 approved credit hours from "3000/4000 level GEOG courses" to "3000/4000 level courses in any discipline as approved by advisor." Second, remove the internship from the required courses (but keep the internship option available for credit). These changes make the program more interdisciplinary and remove barriers that have affected student progress and graduation

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- b) PHYS 4411 Scientific Communication
Request: Add

This course is oriented toward science majors who are interested in becoming teachers and will need to be able to communicate complicated scientific concepts to a broad audience. The course will be cross-listed in Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Geology, and Biology (submissions with these other course prefixes are working their way through Curriculum). The course will be part of the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) pathway allowing science majors to get a Master's in Applied Teaching (MAT). For that program, this course will also be listed as PHYS 5411 which is on this agenda from the Graduate Programs Committee.

Item approved with 43 in favor and 1 opposed.

I accept this motion.

- B) School of Communication, Film, and Media
 - 1) Film & Video Production, B.S.
Request: Modify

This proposal adds the Georgia Film Academy course GFA 1040: Introduction to Film & Television Post-Production as an option in Core Area F. The Georgia Film Academy has created two new pathways which have GFA 1040 as the introductory course. With this proposed revision to the program, the requirement would be stated as taking either GFA 1000 OR GFA 1040 in Area F (instead of only GFA 1000).

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- 2) Mass Communications, B.S.
Request: Modify

There are two changes requested. First, this proposal creates an Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's pathway that allows students to earn credit toward an M.S. in Digital and Social Media Communication while completing the B.S. in Mass Communications. Three courses are available from which students can choose up to six hours to count for both degrees. Second, for the Film &

Video Production concentration in this program, there are two courses being added to the available options from which students can choose to meet the concentration requirements (increasing the options from three to five courses).

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- C) University College
 - 1) Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
 - a) Interdisciplinary Pathway in Materials Science
Request: Add

This pathway leads to a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Materials Science which is a field at the intersection of the physical and chemical properties of matter. This a growth field with research and career opportunities focused on the development of new materials for use in new technologies or engineering. The Physics and Chemistry departments provide the mentors and are the disciplines represented on the pathway's administrative committee.

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 Natural Sciences
 - a) PHYS 5411 Scientific Communication
Request: Add

PHYS 5411 - Scientific Communication is cross-listed in Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Geology, and Biology; will discuss the nature of science, scientific literacy, distinguishing science from pseudoscience, and how to make a persuasive argument regarding a scientific topic.

This course is the graduate version of PHYS 4411-Scientific Communication, and will be part of the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) program that will allow science majors to graduate and get a Master's in Applied Teaching (MAT) in approximately one year. The ABM allows students to count credits toward both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. This course is aimed at science majors who are interested in becoming teachers after they graduate, and who will need to be able to communicate complicated scientific concepts to a broad audience.

Item approved with 41 in favor and 1 opposed.

I accept this motion.

- B) University College
 - 1) Department of Civic Engagement and Public Service
 - a) CRIM 6284 Graduate Capstone
Request: Add

This course is being added to streamline the MA program by replacing the current comprehensive exam with a capstone course that has an exit paper.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- C) Richards College of Business
 - 1) Department of Economics
 - a) Master of Science in Applied Business Analytics
Request: Add

The proposed MS in Applied Business Analytics program is designed to combine practical training with problem solving and critical thinking skills using real problems and real data. In doing so it will prepare students for a job market driven by big data and data analytics, and will include three tracks: Health Care Analytics; Sports Analytics; and Data Intelligence.

Item approved with 41 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- b) ECON 5208 Business Analytics Programming
Request: Add
- c) ECON 5408 Advanced Visual Analytics
Request: Add
- d) ECON 5415 Healthcare Analytics
Request: Add
- e) ECON 6415 Healthcare Economics
Request: Add
- f) ECON 6428 Retail Analytics
Request: Add
- g) ECON 6460 Economics of Sports
Request: Add

Items b through g approved unanimously as a block.

I accept this motion.

- 2) Department of Management
 - a) Master of Science in Strategic Cybersecurity and Information Management
Request: Add

Creating a Master's Degree in Strategic Cybersecurity and Information Management at UWG would build upon RCOB's Management of Information Systems undergraduate degree and would make a path for employees with no tech background to retool themselves to meet the industry need for cybersecurity professionals.

Cybersecurity is a job sector that is experiencing tremendous demand and growth. From May 2021 through April 2022 in the U.S., there were 141,000 employed Information Security Analysts, 180,000 openings for Information Security Analysts with an average salary of \$116,000 (nearly three times the national average), and an estimated annual talent shortfall of 39,000 Information Security Analysts. In Georgia, there are currently over 25,000 job openings and nearly 36,000 people employed in cybersecurity positions.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- b) CISM 6410 Information Asset Protection and Risk Management
Request: Add
- c) CISM 6420 Defensive and Offensive Security
Request: Add
- d) CISM 6430 Cryptography, Identity and Access Management
Request: Add
- e) CISM 6440 Cybersecurity and Cloud Computing
Request: Add
- f) CISM 6450 IoT Security and Analytics
Request: Add
- g) CISM 6460 Security Planning and Systems Development
Request: Add
- h) CISM 6470 Cyberwarfare, Cybercrime, and Digital Forensics
Request: Add
- i) CISM 6480 Special Research Topic in Management Information Systems
Request: Add

Items b through i were approved unanimously as a block.

I accept this motion.

- D) Graduate Catalog 2022- 2023
 - 1) WolfWatch Policy (Figure 1)
Request: Add

The current Graduate Catalog does not describe WolfWatch. This proposed new policy describes the role of WolfWatch to aid and facilitate graduate academic advising.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

2) Disclaimer Policy (Figure 2)

Request: Add

This proposed new policy would be at the end of Graduate Academic Policies to allow the Graduate School to waive or modify graduate policies, giving it flexibility to address situations where rigid application of existing policies result in unduly onerous results for students. Example: Strict application of a policy might require a student to be dismissed in a situation where the graduate program and the Graduate School agree that special circumstances justify waiving or modifying a policy to benefit the student in unusual or extenuating circumstances. This disclaimer language is required to give the Graduate School the flexibility to modify or waive application of a policy in special circumstances that benefit a student.

After discussion regarding the need for more specificity in the language of this policy, the following friendly amendments were proposed and approved: "Graduate School" was changed to "Graduate Dean or appropriate designee;" "its" was changed to "their;" and "in consultation with the appropriate unit when applicable" was added to the end of the sentence.

Item approved as amended with 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

3) Course Repeat Policy (Figure 3)

Request: Modify

Current policy requires all courses taken to be counted in GPA, even if a student fails a course and retakes it to earn an A. The proposed modified policy would allow a course retake resulting in a higher grade to replace a lower previous grade in the same course.

Discussion occurred regarding how repeated courses would be displayed on a student's transcript: where applicable, an indicator of "I" would be noted to the left of the repeated course, notating "Included," and an indicator of "E" would be noted to the left of the previously attempted course(s), notating "Excluded." All attempts would thus still be included on a student's record, but "E" indicated courses would not count towards the student's GPA or degree progress.

Item approved with 37 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

4) Statement of Competitive Admissions/Right of Refusal Policy (Figure 4)

Request: Add

The Statement of Competitive Admission states explicitly that admission to UWG is competitive and satisfying minimum standards of a graduate program does not guarantee admission. The Right of Refusal policy grants the university the right to refuse admission to a graduate applicant, a student who has been accepted, or a student who has enrolled, if the university discovers that the student has violated criminal, academic honesty, honor code, or other standards, as listed in the policy.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

5) Reinstatement Procedures (Figure 5)

Request: Modify

Current reinstatement policies vary in programs across the university. The proposed new policy centralizes the submission procedure requiring all requests for reinstatement to be submitted to the Graduate School using a single "Request for Reinstatement form. Then the Graduate School routes those requests to the respective graduate program for review. The program then forwards its recommendation back to the Graduate School for final decision and communication with the program director and other relevant parties.

After discussions regarding what "sit out" means in the proposed policy language and the need for procedural clarity for students returning after suspension, the following friendly amendments were approved: paragraph 1 of "Reinstatement Procedures" was changed to "As a general practice, a student who wishes to request reinstatement after suspension must complete the 'Request for Reinstatement' form and submit it to the Graduate School. The form will be routed to the appropriate graduate program personnel for review. The program will then forward their recommendation to the Dean of The Graduate School. The Dean of The Graduate School will then notify the appropriate graduate program director, the Office of the Registrar, and the student of the Graduate Dean's decision. A graduate student who is granted a reinstatement must agree to a remediation plan developed by the graduate program. Any deviation from the remediation plan will result in permanent dismissal. Reinstatement is not automatic or guaranteed."

Item approved as amended with 37 in favor and 2 opposed.

I accept this motion.

6) Graduate Admission Classification-Provisional Degree (Figure 6)

Request: Modify

The current policy and process regarding special admission under provisional degree status is decentralized, varying across different Schools and Colleges. The modified policy would add provisions ensuring that provisions (or conditions) imposed by the graduate program on the applicant be submitted to the student and the Graduate School at the time of admission. This will allow the Graduate School to monitor the student's compliance with the provisions, allowing it to assume the responsibility to remove the provisional status as soon as the student meets the conditions. The modified policy removes the responsibility for programs to monitor student completion of required provisions, then remember to complete and submit the conversion form when the student meets the conditions.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

7) Admission Appeals (Figure 7)

Request: Modify

Currently, Colleges and Schools have separate and distinct admissions appeals policies. Denied applicants submit admissions appeals directly to the individual College or School that houses the program that denied admission, and the current policy includes no official role for the Graduate School in the admission appeals process. Under the proposed policy, admission appeals would be handled with a more consistent, standardized process, coordinated through the Graduate School.

This includes having a standard process for graduate admission appeals posted on the Graduate School website, and distinguishing between appeals based on claims of impermissible discrimination, which would be submitted to the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX, in contrast to appeals based on other factors, which would be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School. The new policy also provides procedures for submission of all admission appeals to the Graduate School, and specifies that the Graduate School will identify an appropriate process for reviewing the appeal. Finally, the Graduate School will collect relevant evidence relevant to the appeal and will empanel a group of Graduate Faculty members to review the appeal and make a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School.

Item approved with 36 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

8) Transfer Credit (Figure 8)
Request: Modify

The current policy limits transfer credit to a maximum of six semester credit hours, subject to a designated set of conditions, such as only grades of B or better can be accepted. Proposed policy would permit acceptance of transfer credit up to 25% of the total semester hours required for the UWG graduate degree.

Discussion occurred as to how this revision would benefit the university. It was clarified that this change provides flexibility for programs, most notably in regards to recruiting students from elsewhere (and the percentage of total coursework as a factor of credit hours would differ between smaller and larger programs).

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

9) Credit for Prior Learning or Work Experience (Figure 9)
Request: Add

The new policy would allow students to request credit toward a graduate degree for prior learning (PL) or work experience (WE). The amount of credit awarded from PL or WE cannot exceed 25% of the total semester hours required for the degree and count toward the 25% transfer credit limit. The policy includes provisions concerning eligibility to earn credit for PL or WE; specifies that program faculty must assess the student's PL or WE to determine amount and applicability of credit; provides restrictions on awarding credit for PL or WE for courses previously attempted or completed, and includes opportunity for students to appeal the outcome of the assessment.

Item approved with 36 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

10) Residency Requirement (Figure 10)
Request: Add

The new policy would require students to complete 75% of total semester credit hours required for the degree within their graduate program through instruction offered by UWG. The policy specifies the types of credits that do not count as instruction offered by UWG, such as prior learning assessment and coursework transferred from other institutions.

Item approved 37 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

11) Requirements for Multiple Graduate Degrees (Figure 11)
Request: Add

Policy notes that a student may only earn a specific degree from UWG once, and that a student wishing to complete a second graduate degree must submit a separate application and meet all admission requirements for the second degree. The policy adds that for each subsequent degree, the student may be able to apply coursework from a previous graduate degree earned from UWG, IF the coursework is required in the subsequent degree and the program faculty approve. The exact number of hours allowable will depend on specific degree requirements, but may not exceed 25% of the new degree plan of study.

Discussion occurred regarding how students might avoid laborious or repetitive applications if they are applying to UWG for a further degree while still actively enrolled. It was concluded that providing any concessions for this sort of circumstance might provide an unfair advantage to outside applicants. Further, the policy allows for "double-dipping:" if a student returns for a further degree, courses previously taken can still count towards intended degree requirements as applicable.

Item approved with 38 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

Committee VI: Facilities and Information Technology Committee (Gavin Lee, Chair)

Action Item (Figure 12):

A) Faculty Parking on Campus: Townsend Lot

The Townsend parking lot was opened to students during the pandemic. With classes now delivered face-to-face, the increased number of students and faculty using the lot has created several problems, notably: inadequate parking for faculty and vehicle damage caused by students' cars to faculty vehicles.

Discussion occurred regarding this item with many faculty in agreement. Several faculty members also noted that pedestrian safety has become an issue at many campus crosswalks due to speeding and disregard to crosswalk locations.

The President stated that these issues will be addressed. He also noted that increased signage will be added at pedestrian crosswalks in the coming months.

Item was presented as a vote to return Townsend as faculty-only parking. Item was approved with 43 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Thank you for this recommendation. Changes in programs like campus parking always have implications for other program participants. As a result of this recommendation, I will initiate a usage study to determine how best to meet student, faculty, and staff parking needs.

Committee IX: Rules Committee (Jamie Brandenburg, Chair)

Information Items:

- A) Proxy Amendment Update
 - 1) *The Committee has decided not to move forward regarding this issue at this time.*
- B) Duplications in PolicyStat for Decommission.
 - 1) *After review, it was discovered that there were three duplications: two regarding RPT, and one duplication regarding evaluation. There were individual links provided, but these are already present in the handbook. PolicyStat thus created a duplication of the policy: it was voted and approved in the committee to decommission those three links.*
- C) Policies and Procedure for Review and Comment
 - 1) *The committee is working with university counsel to find a remedy to the potential problem of policies needing review in June and July when faculty are not on contract. The committee was informed in their meeting that if there is a policy put out at any time, there is a 14-day window with discussion, but policies can be revisited at any time.*
- D) Amanda Shoemake will serve as Chair of the Rules Committee for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

I thank Dr. Shoemaker for serving as Chair of the Rules Committee for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.