MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Planning Committee

FROM: Brian McGee, Interim Provost

DATE: March 18, 2015

SUBJECT: Sections 59-29-120 and 59-29-130, South Carolina Code of Laws

For over a year, the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost have been aware of legislative interest in the compliance of all colleges and universities with the terms of Sections 59-29-120 and 59-29-130 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. As a result of those conversations, we now believe that the College of Charleston does not comply with the applicable statutes. Further, it is evident that these statutes will not be revised or updated in the near future.

Beginning in Catalog Year 2015-2016, and consistent with my conversations with the President, it is my position that all students earning a degree should comply with the requirements of Sect. 59-29-120 and Sect. 59-29-130 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. As required by South Carolina statute, degree-seeking students should receive instruction in the essentials of the Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, and the Constitution of the United States. In addition, satisfactory performance on an examination would be required for graduation.

Rather than require all students to complete “a course or courses” designated to fulfill this requirement, the College of Charleston would provide a menu of opportunities for students to receive instruction in the essentials of the “founding documents” culminating in a single online examination that all students must complete prior to graduation. In addition to a large number of course options, the Office of the Provost would sponsor an annual public lecture series and host a variety of co-curricular events designed to promote knowledge of the founding documents and an understanding of the principles contained in the documents.

The College will continue the recognition of our annual Constitution Day series as well as our many events in honor of Veterans Day.

An ad hoc committee of faculty, staff, and students will be convened to develop the online instructional module with embedded examination questions. Students will be presented with instructional material in a variety of engaging formats. Immediately upon completing the module,
students will be presented with relevant examination questions. Upon successfully answering the questions, the student will move forward to the next module. In all, we expect the instruction and examination to reinforce knowledge gained in high school and through other coursework. Students should expect to complete the online instructional examination in approximately 20 minutes. Faculty will determine the content, format, and length of the instructional module and the examination. The standard for “satisfactory performance” on the examination will be a score of 70 percent correct.

The ad hoc committee will also be charged with working with colleagues in TLT/IT, the Office of the Registrar, and others to develop a full implementation plan which the Provost will communicate to the Faculty Senate and the college community no later than September 17, 2015. In order to communicate this new requirement to all students, several amendments to the undergraduate, undergraduate BPS, and graduate catalogs need to be approved.

I would appreciate the advice, counsel, and support (if appropriate) of your committee for this work to comply with state law.

Undergraduate Catalog language (p. 19): new language in red

Degree Requirements

Artium Baccalaureatus, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Science Degrees

The trustees and faculty of the College of Charleston are authorized by the charter of the College to confer the artium baccalaureates, bachelor of arts, and the bachelor of science degrees. (See individual schools for a complete list of majors and degrees offered.) Additional requirements for the Artium Baccalaureatus degree appear below.

In order to graduate with an artium baccalaureates, a bachelor of arts, or a bachelor of science degree, the student must meet four types of degree requirements:

1. Liberal arts and sciences general education degree requirements: a distribution requirement of 14 to 18 courses designed to introduce the student to the principal areas of intellectual inquiry and to teach the student basic intellectual skills.

2. First-Year Experience requirement: All students who have completed less than one year of college when they enter the College of Charleston must complete a First-Year Seminar (FYSE) or a Learning Community (LC) during their first year.

3. Major requirements: the courses specified for the student’s major program, which are designed to provide concentrated study in a specialized field.

4. Electives: courses chosen by the student as a means of studying subjects of particular interest.

To be eligible for graduation, the student must have:

1. Satisfied the general education degree requirements by earning credit in the courses specified and/or successfully passing approved placement exams offered in their stead.

2. Satisfied the First-Year Experience requirement, when applicable. (see #2 above)

3. Completed instruction in the essentials of the Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, and the Constitution, as required by South Carolina statutes (see Sect. 59-29-120), and achieved satisfactory performance on an accompanying examination. This requirement must only be
satisfied once at the College of Charleston. Satisfactory performance on the examination is required for graduation regardless of the degree awarded.

4. Earned credit in courses required for the major, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 in all major courses (or for interdepartmental majors such as Urban Studies, all courses in the area of concentration). Some programs require a GPA greater than a 2.0; see specific major requirements in the "Schools" section of the catalog.

5. Earned a total of 122 credit hours, with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in all courses taken at the College (i.e., at least twice as many quality points as quality hours).

It is the responsibility of the student to meet the requirements for graduation as listed above. Courses numbered 100 or below may carry credit, but are not counted as part of the 122 credit hour minimum needed for the degree nor do they count toward the GPA. No more than eight credit hours of physical education activity 100 level courses (including PEAC/PEHD/THTR cross-listed dance/activity courses) may be counted as part of this minimum.

Artium Baccalaureatus (A.B.)

For all majors except Classics, completion of all required courses in any major, 18 credit hours in Latin or 18 credit hours in Ancient Greek, and six credit hours in courses in classical civilization such as: [course list deleted]

NOTES: The registrar as well as the Classics department maintains a list of courses that can be used to satisfy this requirement. Classics majors should refer to the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs section of this catalog for A.B. degree requirements. An A.B. degree will replace the B.A. or B.S. degree normally earned with a major, unless the student meets the requirements for a second degree.

The student must have earned a grade point average of 2.5 or higher in the courses used to satisfy the classical languages and classical civilization requirements. Students should select the A.B. degree of their major when declaring online through Program of Study Management (POSM) system. If a student has already declared a major under a different degree, they can use the Change Degree feature in POSM to submit a request for the A.B. degree.

Second Bachelor's Degree

A student who has previously earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston and wishes to pursue further undergraduate work may either complete an additional major and have it noted on the permanent record (with date of completion)* or earn a second degree if it is different from the first (i.e., a B.A. if the first degree was a B.S. and vice versa**). This student must apply for re-admission for the second degree, and then:

- Must earn a minimum of 31 additional credit hours (beyond the 122 currently required for degree) in residence at CofC.
- Meet all degree and College graduation requirements for the second degree program in the catalog under which he or she enters, or in a subsequent catalog.
- Meet all prerequisite and course requirements in the major field(s) for the second degree.
A College of Charleston student may earn more than one baccalaureate degree (i.e., B.A., A.B., B.S.) concurrently at the College of Charleston, if he or she meets the following requirements:

- Earns a minimum of 153 credit hours, including a minimum of 63 credit hours in residence at College of Charleston.
- Meets all degree and College graduation requirements for both degree programs.
- Meets all prerequisite and course requirements in two different major fields.

Students who hold a baccalaureate degree from another institution may earn a second baccalaureate degree at the College of Charleston by meeting the following requirements:

- Complete a minimum of 31 credit hours at the College of Charleston with at least 15 taken in the major field at the 200 level or above.
- Meet all prerequisite and course requirements in the major field and degree requirements for the second baccalaureate degree program.
- Earn a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher in course work completed for the major and second baccalaureate degree programs. Some programs require a GPA greater than a 2.0; see specific major requirements in the "Schools" section of the catalog.
- Complete instruction in the essentials of the Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, and the Constitution, as required by South Carolina statutes (see Sect. 59-29-120), and achieve satisfactory performance on an accompanying examination. This requirement must only be satisfied once at the College of Charleston. Satisfactory performance on the examination is required for graduation regardless of the degree awarded.

NOTE: A student may not earn a B.A. and a B.S. in the same subject, even with the additional 31 credit hours for another degree.

*CofC students completing a major in the same degree program previously awarded will not receive a second diploma. However, the permanent record (transcript) will reflect the additional major. In the case of multiple majors in different degree programs, the student will choose the degree to be earned and posted on the diploma if the student has not satisfied the requirements to be awarded more than one degree as noted above (earned less than 153 credit hours).

**Students earning an A.B. degree will earn that degree in place of the B.A. or B.S. normally earned with the major.

BPS Undergraduate Catalog 2014-2015 p. 15

Degree Requirements
Bachelor of Professional Studies
The trustees and faculty of the College of Charleston are authorized by the charter of the College to confer the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree.
In order to graduate with a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree, the student must meet the degree requirements:
1. Completed a minimum of 122 credit hours while maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
2. Earned credit in concentration courses required for the degree, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 in all major courses.
3. Complete a minimum of 35 credit hours in residence in the BPS program.
4. Accumulate 60 credit hours of college work transferred at admission (includes General Education requirements completed elsewhere).
5. Complete the 4-credit hour transition course.
6. Accumulate 12 credit hours of liberal arts common seminars.
7. Accumulate 30 concentration credit hours (18 credit hours from the same track; 12 credit hours from related concentration electives).
8. Complete the 4 credit hour capstone seminar.
9. Complete 12 credit hours of electives (completed in the program or transferred from elsewhere).
10. Complete instruction in the essentials of the Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, and the Constitution, as required by South Carolina statutes (see Sect. 59-29-120), and achieve satisfactory performance on an accompanying examination. This requirement must only be satisfied once at the College of Charleston. Satisfactory performance on the examination is required for graduation regardless of the degree awarded.

Graduate Catalog 2014-2015 p. 17

Insert the following after “Concentration Policy,” a new section:

South Carolina Code of Laws Founding Documents Requirement
As required by South Carolina statute (see Sect. 59-29-120), all degree-seeking students must complete instruction in the essentials of the Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, and the Constitution and achieve satisfactory performance on an accompanying examination. This requirement must only be satisfied once at the College of Charleston. Satisfactory performance on the examination is required for graduation regardless of the degree awarded.