2021-2022 Committee for Graduate Education Committee Meeting  
October 1, 2021  
3:00pm  
zoom link: https://cofc.zoom.us/j/81103918645

Committee members: Shawn Morrison (Chair; French, Francophone, and Italian Studies), Brian Bossak (Health and Human Performance), Roxane DeLaurell (Accounting and Business Law), Brennan Keegan (Religious Studies), Kate Keeney (Secretary; Arts Management), Emily Rosko (English), Andrew Shedlock (Biology)

Ex-Officio: Kameelah Martin (Graduate Dean), Mark Del Mastro (Associate Provost), Lisa Chestney, (Registrar), Divya Bhati (Institutional Effectiveness)

Guests: Franklin Czwazka (Office of the Registrar), Jerry Mackeldon (Office of the Registrar), Robyn Olejniczak (Graduate School), Emily Beck (LALE)

A. Call to Order. Shawn called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM

B. Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2021. Two spelling corrections were made. Andrew motioned to approve. Emily seconded. All approved.

C. Curriculum Proposals

1. LALE 695 Change Pre-Requisites https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3267/form

Shawn explained the proposal. Emily gave a more thorough explanation. Any core LALE core course will serve as a prerequisite for LALE 695 which is a capstone course.

Kameelah shared concerns from the Graduate School, but ultimately, they support the proposal. Is one core course sufficient for the capstone? Is the change being driven by scheduling or course content? Should it be a pre or co-requisite so that courses are before or concurrent?

Emily responded to the question about the co-requisite. Most of the students will have taken the courses in advance. If it is a co-requisite, then they must take it at the same time. The prerequisites satisfy some understanding of the teaching portfolio which is completed in the capstone course.

Kate motioned to approve. Emily seconded. All approved.

2. URBP (Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Certificate) Add PUBA 519 https://cofc.curriculog.com/proposal:3442/form

Judy was not present. Shawn discussed the proposal and asked for questions.

Roxane motioned to approve. Brennan seconded. All approved.

D. On-going discussion: Policy on changing to grading scale with minus grades

Shawn discussed a memo that was written in October 2019. Shawn circulated the memo to the committee by email before the meeting.
Emily explained that she and Karen Chandler co-signed the memo, but that she was not part of any additional discussion.

Shawn noted that this may be a SACSCOC issue because of the joint programs.

Kameelah informed the committee of her communication with others on this topic. She sent out an inquiry and received a response from Computer Science at the Citadel who was generally supportive. History responded and was also generally in favor. She did not receive a response from the English program.

Robyn found conversation about changing the graduate grading scale as early as 2011.

It appears that faculty are generally supportive of this idea.

Kameelah also spoke briefly to the Provost about this proposal. Kameelah noted that we need a clear plan for next steps and for coordinating with the joint programs at the Citadel. We are dissolving the joint program with Clemson.

Mark suggested a preliminary step to be 1) a joint task force with the Citadel, 2) additional data, 3) Provosts’ review, 4) approval processes at both institutions.

Emily brought up the undue burden of those with joint programs.

Robyn asked if we must include the Citadel in the process. Divya responded yes, as it is one degree.

Shawn asked if it would have to go to SACSCOC. Divya explained the different types of notification that would be required.

Andrew brought up that it would be a problem if the Citadel had already changed the grading scale.

Kameelah also mentioned that the Registrar’s Office cannot prioritize this project right now. Provost Austin asked the same question.

Lisa said that this will be a multi-year process and that Banner would have to support two grading scales at once. Franklin said it would be like the undergraduate grade change in Fall 2006. Also, the vendor may not be able to fit this in right now.

Roxane asked what are we hoping to gain with the grade scale change? Shawn reviewed the rationale from the 2019 memo. Brian seconded Roxane’s question. Given some of the challenges that have been discussed, Brian noted that he is trying to conceptualize the benefits.

A- and B- would be the two new grades.

Andrew noted that this seems to be an issue for faculty but not with students. Kate noted that the current grading scale advantages the students. Students would not want the change.

Roxane asked if there is a way to give other distinctions to achieving students. Shawn noted the mechanism of “outstanding students.”

Brennan suggested a conversation about grade inflation as a substitute. It is ok to give Bs and maybe we need to be reminded of that.

If there is a group of faculty members that really care to push this forward, then the option is there.

Shawn will go back to Judy to discuss the challenges, including a 3-4 year implementation. The group talked about the implementation challenges. IT dimension is not trivial – there may be time and energy. Is it worth all the effort?

Divya also asked if there is a different system at the Citadel. Robyn shared the printed scale that is online.
E. For the good of the order

F. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3:50 PM
Emily motioned to adjourn. Andrew seconded. All approved.