

The University of Kansas
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES & ADVISING

AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 22, 2009, 11:00AM
STRONG HALL – ROOM 210

- I. Approval of CUSA Minutes from August 8, 2009
- II. Chair's Report
- III. Dean's Office Report
- IV. CLA&S Student Academic Services Report
- V. Subcommittee Chair Reports

A. Advising & Awards

Proposal for catalog wording: BGS Degree, Liberal Arts and Sciences

Liberal Arts and Sciences (a non-major option)

Why Study Liberal Arts and Sciences? Because a broad liberal arts and sciences education offers a vehicle for satisfying a variety of needs:

- Interests do not fit currently existing major options
- May fit a non-traditional student's needs better than a traditional major option
- Offers a distance education option for KU degree
- Provides preparation for admission into a post-bachelor professional program (Physical Therapy, Medicine, Law, Business Administration)
- Avenue for adding a bachelor's degree to an already existing technical degree or licensure certificate
- A desire to experience a more broad based, liberal arts and sciences curriculum

B. Curricular Changes/Degree Requirements

1. Curricular Changes for Approval: HA 310, ENGL 405, ENGL 406, ENGL 408, HWC 325, HWC 328, HWC 440, HWC 444, HWC 452
2. Degree Requirements for Approval:
Change to Existing Communication Studies Major

Old Business:

HL Principal Course Status for THR 106

C. Academic Standards

- VI. Old Business

Discussion of time frame for applying current Gen Ed requirements

COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND ADVISING
Minutes of the Meeting for September 8, 2009

The committee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 210 Strong Hall. The following were present: Banwart, Bradley, Burright, Comer, Crosby, Dozier, Earnhart, Fischer, Kuczera, Ledom, Manning, McCrea, McNeley, Mielke, Phillips, Rudolph, Tucker

Professor Manning called the meeting to order and introduced herself to the committee members since she had been ill and unable to attend the previous meeting.

MINUTES A motion was made to approve the August 25, 2009 minutes of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies & Advising meeting with no corrections. The motion was seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT Professor Manning held her report until discussion of old business.

DEAN'S REPORT Associate Dean Cudd was not able to attend, so there was no Dean's report.

CLA&S STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES REPORT Assistant Dean McNeley first congratulated Professor Comer for his receipt of a Kemper Teaching Excellence Award. She reminded the committee of the upcoming Undergraduate Coordinator Update meetings and distributed a draft agenda for those meetings to give the committee members an idea of the kinds of topics that would be covered. She invited anyone who would like to attend to do so, and asked for suggestions of other topics the members would like to see covered in these updates.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

- A. **ADVISING & AWARDS** – Professor Kuczera reported that their subcommittee had discussed the advising document for the currently-named BGS Non-major Degree Option, beginning with renaming it. Several options were discussed, in light of a concern for the marketability and possible interpretation of the name in the general population. A straw vote was held first that narrowed the choices to “BGS, Liberal Arts and Sciences” and “BGS, Multi-disciplinary Studies.” A formal vote was then held, with unanimous approval for “BGS, Liberal Arts & Sciences.”

Professor Kuczera went on to report that the subcommittee had also discussed their charge to develop an advising document for this BGS option. He mentioned they had concerns about noting possible weaknesses of a degree, and that an advising document may not be necessary since procedures for advising currently exist for the BGS with a major degree, and existing forms could be revised to suit this option. Professor Earnhart noted that Amber Blackmore had drafted a statement based on the subcommittee's discussion, summarizing the subcommittee's concerns regarding development of an advising document, and asked if any of the committee members minded if he read from it. The statement follows:

The CUSA Advising and Awards Sub-committee considered the request to create an advising document for the new non-major BGS option available to students beginning this Fall 2009. After careful consideration of this request, the committee felt it was unnecessary to have students sign a document when declaring this track of the BGS. In order to present this track as a viable option for students, the committee members felt the procedure for declaring this major should be as uniform as possible in relation to the existing major BGS option. We currently have an advising system in place and will provide students with information regarding the requirements for this degree. There are declaration forms and non-declared hold removal forms that already exist, which can be utilized to ensure students understand the steps they need to take to declare the non-major track of the BGS degree. The committee felt that drafting a document that outlines the weaknesses of a degree would be a step in the wrong direction.

Professor Earnhart noted there was more to the statement but indicated what he read covered the main concerns of the subcommittee. Discussion followed and included the suggestion that advising could be covered in the catalog copy detailing this degree option. It was noted by Dr. McNeley that, prior to the faculty-wide vote, several concerned faculty had specifically requested an advising document for this BGS, Liberal Arts and Sciences degree be developed for clarity, to make sure students understood the strengths and weaknesses of this degree. They were assured their concern would be brought forward to CUSA and entertained fully before a decision was made. Further discussion followed, resulting in the general agreement by the attending members of the Advising and Awards subcommittee that they would draft a short statement that could be used in the undergraduate catalog copy about this degree option, beginning with a “Why Study...?” statement. This copy might also include some kind of disclaimer statement or

specific language clarifying that no major is tied to this degree option. The subcommittee will work on that, and present it to CUSA for further review before a final decision is made.

B. CURRICULAR CHANGES/DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. Curricular Changes for Approval: CEAS 200, CEAS 500, EVRN 371, GEOG 371
Professor Banwart presented for the subcommittee and noted that the CEAS 200 and CEAS 500 had been tabled in the past, but the subcommittee's concerns had been met so they were being put forward again. The subcommittee moved for an approval; that motion was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Degree Requirements for Approval
 - a) HL Principle Course Status for ENGL 315, FMS 200, FMS 311, FMS 314, THR 106, THR, 215, THR 404
A question was raised about THR 106 and why it would have HL Principal Course status since it appeared to be more focused on technique. During the discussion it was pointed out that this course now appears on the approved HL list. Karen Ledom noted that needed to be researched since it would be an error that would need to be corrected. The THR 106 course was tabled until that research and correction could be made and additional information could be requested from the department regarding the course content and justification for HL status. A motion was made to approve for HL status all the above courses except THR 106. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.
 - b) Change to Existing Film and Media Studies BGS Major
Clarification was made that this change was just to correct the course number. A motion was made to approve this change. The motion was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Professor Manning noted the need for a definitive timetable for departments who currently have major admissions requirements to submit a set of standards. Due to the upcoming deadlines for the 2010-2011 undergraduate catalog, this needed to be addressed. Clarification was made that if revised standards are not received by departments who currently use major admission criteria by this deadline, those departments will no longer be able to use that criteria. Discussion ensued, resulting in a motion to set a deadline for all departments who currently have major admissions requirements, and for all departments who wish to have major admissions requirements, to submit those major admissions requirements to CUSA for review no later than March 1, 2010, for possible Fall 2010 implementation. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Dr. Manning went on to discuss other tasks CUSA will need to work on this year. She mentioned establishment of degree requirements. She noted some factors that will need to be considered, such as defining initial terms, possibly setting a deadline for completion of a degree, major requirements, and the different reasons students may have had an interruption in the completion of their degree requirements. She also brought up CUSA will be addressing the increasing interest in certificates and how they relate to minors, etc. Dr. Banwart offered the services of the Curricular Changes/Degree Requirements subcommittee to do some background work on the various aspects of certificate programs, and there was general agreement that would be very helpful. Dr. Manning also noted the topic of online courses would probably need to be tabled until next semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

1. Curricular Changes

a. Curricular Changes for Approval

ART HISTORY

CHANGE: NEW COURSE

HA 310 THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF FLORENCE AND PARIS 3 H
Taught in the Humanities and Western Civilization Program Abroad, this course examines the major movements that defined and shaped the art and architecture of Florence and Paris, with special attention to the Renaissance in Florence and the Gothic and modern periods in Paris. Through classroom lectures, readings, and visits to museums, churches, and other historic sites, selected works of art and architecture are analyzed in terms of their formal qualities, iconography, and cultural context. Prerequisite: Approval for enrollment in the Humanities and Western Civilization Study Abroad program through the KU Office of Study Abroad. LEC

ENGLISH

CHANGE: DELETE COURSE

ENGL 405 THE COMIC SPIRIT 3 H
An integrated study of the nature of comedy in several disciplines such as literature, art, and music. May emphasize the development of philosophy of the comic, one discipline, or one period. (Same as HWC 440) LEC

CHANGE: DELETE COURSE

ENGL 406 THE TRAGIC SPIRIT 3 H
An integrated study of the nature of tragedy in several disciplines such as literature, art, and music. May emphasize the development or philosophy of the tragic, one discipline, or one period. (Same as HWC 444) LEC

CHANGE: DELETE COURSE

ENGL 408 THE SPIRIT OF ROMANCE 3 H
An integrated study of the nature of the romance in several disciplines such as literature, art, and music. May emphasize the development or philosophy of the romance, one discipline, or one period. (Same as HWC 452) LEC

HUMANITIES & WESTERN CIVILIZATION

CHANGE: NEW COURSE

HWC 325 THEORY AND METHOD IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES 3 H
An introduction to recent cultural theory and interdisciplinary methods used across the humanities and qualitative social sciences. Includes examination of traditional views of the humanities and its implicit cultures along with discussion of new methodologies of cultural analysis. LEC

CHANGE: NEW COURSE

HWC 328 LAW AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION 3 H
An overview of Western Legal education, both in historical and modern contexts. Legal subjects such as constitutional law, contracts, property, the courts and ethics are also studied. Students gain perspective on law as a profession, and the legal environments in which we live. Note: this course does not guarantee admission to law school or constitute entry into the legal profession as a career. It is intended to provide information and help students identify interests in the field of legal study. LEC

CHANGE: DELETE COURSE

HWC 440 THE COMIC SPIRIT 3 H
An integrated study of the nature of comedy in several disciplines such as literature, art and music. May emphasize the development of the philosophy of the comic, one discipline, or one period. (Same as ENGL 405) LEC

CHANGE: DELETE COURSE

HWC 444 THE TRAGIC SPIRIT 3 H

An integrated study of the nature of tragedy in several disciplines such as literature, art, and music. May emphasize the development or philosophy of the tragic, one discipline or period. (Same as ENGL 406) LEC

CHANGE: DELETE COURSE

HWC 452 THE SPIRIT OF ROMANCE 3 H

An integrated study of the nature of romance in several disciplines such as literature, art, and music. May emphasize the development or philosophy of the romance, one discipline, or one period. (Same as ENGL 408) LEC

2. Degree Requirements for Approval

Change to Existing Communication Studies Major

EXISTING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Complete a minimum of 30 hours of university or college-level coursework (transfer students must have an equivalent number of hours accepted by the college).
2. Complete COMS 130 (unless they have received a waiver or, in the case of transfer students, an equivalent course).
3. Complete at least one of: COMS 104, 235, 244, 246, 310, 332, or an equivalent course at another university, college or community college.
4. Earn an overall GPA of at least 2.0.
5. Earn a GPA of at least 2.5 in all completed COMS courses.

Note: Students should apply to the COMS major before completing 12 hours of Communication Studies courses. Students will **not** be admitted to the major simply because they have completed a large number of COMS courses.

PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS:

1. Complete COMS 130 (unless they have received a waiver or, in the case of transfer students, an equivalent course).
2. Complete *at least 3* of: COMS 104, 235, 244, 246, 310, 320, 331, 332, or equivalent courses at another university, college or community college.
3. Communication Studies Admission GPA Minimum: 2.75 or higher in COMS 130 and the courses completed from the list above.
4. Application Term: Application to the major should occur in the term in which all designated admission requirements have been initially completed. If student does not meet established admission GPA criteria or neglects to apply for admission in the term stated above, the student must petition the department for permission for late application. The department, as part of an approved petition, will determine late admission requirements (including GPA and curriculum) and the final admission deadline.
5. Admission GPA Calculation: If a student has taken more than 3 of the courses listed above in the semester in which the 4th COMS course is completed, all of the grades received in these courses (104, 235, 244, 246, 310, 320, 331, 332) will be computed in the GPA for admission consideration. *Grades in other COMS courses will not be considered for admission to the major.* University course repeat policy will apply to GPA calculation. Student must petition the department to reapply and determine admission requirements/curriculum.

JUSTIFICATION:

Due to heavy student demand for Communication Studies classes, the department believes it is necessary to have a major admission process. The department also feels strongly that successful completion of the courses listed above will assist students in predicting their future success in the Communication Studies major. After reviewing the

classes students have taken for admission to the major over the past four years, the department feels that a 2.75 GPA in COMS classes is a reasonable minimum for admission to the major. Over the past four years, the department has admitted an average of 110 students per semester. Based on the number of students admitted in previous semesters and the average GPA of these students, requiring a 2.75 GPA in COMS classes would not significantly change the number of students admitted in the future. The department believes this GPA would represent an adequate standard of knowledge in Communication Studies, and allow the department the opportunity to successfully manage enrollment in classes, while still providing students with the ability to graduate in a timely fashion. The new requirements for major admission would apply to students whose initial term at KU is the one immediately following final approval of the requirements.

Curricular and Administrative Notes:

Maintain capstone course for majors only, COMS 356.

Maintain reserve capacities for majors.

Old Business

HL Principal Course Status for THR 106

Existing Course

THR 106

ACTING I

DESCRIPTION:

Fundamental techniques in acting. Practice in character creation, body language, and effective stage speech.

JUSTIFICATION:

Acting is more than just an art form, but a humanity where we delve in depth to the essential question of our own humanity. The course is aimed at the general college student as an introduction to not only the discipline, but the critical analysis of plays, play production and performance. Most of the students in the course are non majors who have an interest in the field of acting, specifically to better understanding the process and tools (both experiential and analytical) that an actor uses (and there are many and varied approaches). As a principal course, acting can inform the student on a variety of topics in their other general education classes. The course also strengthens communication skills, develops ensemble, and engages all of the senses to better explore what it means to tell a story and to be human.