

To: Graduate Academic Council
From: Sally Friedman, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)
Date: May 6, 2009
Subject: Report and Recommendations

CC&I Members: J. Champagne, G. Denbeaux, S. Friedman, S. Newman, A. Pomerantz, and F. Bolton (staff) were present. J. Rivera-Wilson and B. Thiel were unable to attend.

Four items of business were considered.

1. College of Arts and Sciences – Department of Chemistry proposal to modify coursework in its MS in Applied Chemistry with a Concentration in Forensic Chemistry program

The present MS in Applied Chemistry with a Concentration in Forensic Chemistry program of study consists of core courses (21 credits), a Forensic Drug Chemistry Internship/Practicum (8 credits) and Chemical Research (6-12 credits) for a minimum of 34 credits. Rather than continuing with a firm set of core courses, Chemistry proposed (1) that students choose three courses from a specified list of core courses; (2) that students enroll in two mandatory Forensic Chemistry I and II courses; (3) take one course chosen from a list of four courses to satisfy a research tool requirement; and (4) register for a Seminar in Chemistry course, 2 credits minimum. Chemical Research (6-12 credits) and recommended forensic electives make up the remaining required credits. The Forensic Drug Chemistry Internship/Practicum was placed within these recommended forensic elective choices.

The Department of Chemistry submitted a Course Action Form with a brief cover letter and attachment summarizing the modifications and changes being made to its core course requirements. The CC&I members found the proposal to be lacking in overview and rationale and voiced its concerns and questions to the Department. The clarifications and answers received have now been made a part of the original proposal's request.

The justifications given and information obtained from the Chemistry Department made it possible to conduct an electronic poll of the Committee. A 5-0-0 vote in favor of the proposal and program changes resulted.

2. College of Arts and Sciences – Department of Communication proposal to add a Health Communication area of concentration to its M.A. degree

Students seeking a M.A. degree in Communication are presently offered three areas of concentration: Political Communication, Organizational Communication and Interpersonal interaction/cultural practices. The Department of Communication now proposes to offer a fourth area entitled Health Communication. In keeping with the other concentration areas 12 credits of coursework would need to be completed – one required Introduction to Health course and 9 credits of supporting electives. The overall number of credits needed to complete the program remains the same.

Health communication is a growing field on multiple levels – interpersonal (doctor/patient); organizational (matching the image of an organization with those seeking its services) and mass communication (promotion of health campaigns). Faculty members with expertise in the area are available. So no additional resources are needed to support this new concentration.

The proposal was well explained and the rationale provided was clear. The Committee voted unanimously (5-0-0) to endorse the concentration addition and to move the proposal forward to GAC for further action.

3. College of Arts and Sciences – Department of History request to require GRE scores for M.A. applicants

The Department of History voted to require the submission of GRE scores for M.A. applicants. Even after raising their undergraduate GPA standard, the Department felt that having a standardized test score would help differentiate between students coming from qualitatively different schools. This requirement is already in place for applicants to History's PhD program as well as for applicants to the MA Information Science program who wish to be accepted to the joint MA History/Information Science program.

Generalizing this requirement to include all History programs and obtaining another assessment tool for applicants received the approval of the Committee 5-0-0.

4. Review of Advanced Certificate in Professional Science Management Proposal

At its April 27th meeting the GAC asked its CC&I subcommittee to undertake a review of a proposal to establish an Advanced Certificate in Professional Science Management. The Certificate is to be made available to students who have been awarded master's degrees or who are pursuing master's degrees in three University professional science programs (MS in Forensic Molecular Biology, MS in Biodiversity, Conservation and Policy, and MS in Computer Science). The total minimum credit requirement for the Certificate is 18 and is to be comprised of:

- 1.) Science requirement: graduate-level courses in science and/or technology as appropriate (6 credits)
- 2.) "PLUS" courses in various areas of business, communications, law and public administration as appropriate to the program (9-12 credits)
- 3.) Internship (3-6 credits)
- 4.) A portfolio of written work

Presently the University offers three different certificate programs: Advanced Graduate Certificate (AGC), Certificate of Graduate Study (CGS) and Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS). It appears from the content of the proposal that this PSM Certificate aligns itself "in type" with Advanced Graduate Certificates (i.e. School of Education AGCs). If so, the Committee suggests that "Graduate" be inserted in the title of the Certificate to distinguish it from a Certificate of Graduate Study.

As written there is nothing in the proposal that prevents a student who may fail in their master's program or withdraw before its completion from requesting and being awarded a PSM Certificate. The Committee felt the proposal should have language stipulating that the Certificate is contingent upon completion of a master's degree or can only be awarded with proof of an earned master's degree.

The Certificate is requiring the completion of 9 credits of "PLUS" courses beyond those needed to fulfill the existing MS program. However, the Committee had difficulty understanding whether the School of Business "PLUS" courses listed on page 4 were the only ones available to the three University professional science programs at this time or whether the Criminal Justice, Public Policy, Public Administration and Geography courses could also be used in fulfillment. If only the Business courses can be chosen, then it seemed odd that 11 credits in coursework were offered. In essence the "PLUS" course choice would be limited mathematically to the three 3 credit course combination.

Several administrative questions were raised:

- Will this Certificate need to be resubmitted and reviewed each time a new science program desires to add it to its offering?
- For headcount purposes what department or discipline would "own" the student?
- In addition to their home department's advisement is the School of Business the only other student advisement provided or allowed? Page 5 of the proposal makes reference to the School of Business Dean's appendix letter that agrees "to provide access to courses and seat capacity for students enrolled in the Certificate in Professional Science Management, subject to early advising and careful planning and communication across units".

Overall the proposal was considered to be a good idea but in present form confusing and underspecified.