

## **I. Committee Business**

**Present:** L. Rossi, A. Updike, R. Soto, K. Mele, C. Fagan, J. Platania, E. Tooley, Dean Eisinger, N. Breen, B. Cade, L.L.Wallace.

1. FCAS CC elections update
  - a. SS seat 2016-2019: B. Cade
  - b. HPA seat 2016-2019: L. Wallace
  - c. MNS fall 2016 leave replacement: N. Breen
2. Minutes of April 13, 2016, Qualtrics survey, Attached file to email, approved (4-0-1-1): <http://rwu.edu/academics/academic-affairs/curriculum-process/agendas-minutes>
3. Eballot of 4/15/2016 results summary, including comment. Outcome for the following petition was *Approve*:
  - B.A. in English Literature (Approve/ Bring to Committee/ Abstain/ Absence, 6-0-0-0).
4. FCAS CC by-laws (distributed to committee members)

Modifications include: replacement of references to the former RWU Curriculum wordpress site and its use with Curricunet and its usage, (2) inclusion of language concerning leaves, other than sabbatical, of Chair or elected CC members, and (3) the possibility of an interim Chair position. Revised CAS CC bylaws ought to be placed under Academic Affairs website, under curriculum process. Motion to approve 2016 revised bylaws: KM, ET, 6-0-0.
5. FCAS CC Chair 2016-2017 election. RS nominated. RS agrees to serve as interim chair in the fall semester (given other possible commitments in spring '17), LR will return to chair in the spring 2017 semester. Approve: 6-0-0.
6. Additional meeting May 11<sup>th</sup>? Agreed that an additional meeting is a good idea. Attempt then to have first reading of petitions in queue that are not associated with program changes. (Petitions associated with program changes would be requiring multiple meetings and would benefit from successive meeting held during the academic year.) 11 am on May 11th works for most. Chair will send confirmation email of date/ time.

## **II. First Readings**

1. Modify School Program B.A. in Political Science 2/25/2016
  - Discussion to continue from last meeting-Dean Eisinger to discuss 'College requirement'  
Petitioner June Speakman present to discuss petition.

PolSci and IR is applying to drop the COMM 210 public speaking requirement from the majors. COMM 210 is considered a FCAS school requirement (although it is not required by the Dance major) according to catalog. What course will replace it within these programs?

- Document shared by June Speakman and SS representative states argument of PolSci and IR program (attached). Numerous options for other courses to replace these three credits in program.
- Dean does not see COMM 210 as an all-college requirement as Dance does not have this in their program curriculum. Many Major programs in catalog read 'and the college speech requirement' in catalog. Dean stated this requirement should be decision of the departments.

Is this a requirement for public speaking or for COMM 210 specifically? Do departments need to suggest replacements from their own curriculum?

COMM 210 uses specialized language about communicating; do the students necessarily need this course or obtain the same outcomes from courses within their own programs?

- Petitioner shared parts of a conversation she had with Associate Provost Cole in which it was asked if the required PolSci courses met the outcomes of the COMM 210 class. (A similar question that was posed by the committee in discussion earlier on 4/13/2016.)
- Dean – Departments may decide if students are obtaining the same outcomes/ goals intended by a COMM 210 requirement- a department may have a class/classes that include speech (as described in course description) in order to meet this common desired skill of the students. Some programs/ courses may be able to assess public speaking skills as well as the content within a student presentation. Other programs may still want the COMM 210 to be required by their respective program/ department because through coursework within that particular program a student does not obtain the desired speech skills or faculty are not comfortable with assessing student speech skills.

Suggestion to embed COMM 210 and/ or its learning outcomes into CORE classes, which are university requirements of all programs. Other issues may be involved with such a CORE modification.

The COMM 210 course may need to be re-evaluated or updated to suit the needs of the University not just FCAS.

Additional questions over 'requirement': How do courses become college requirements? How are they evaluated and reviewed? Does it need to be removed as a college requirement? Who needs to approve a 'requirement'? Why not a university-wide requirement?

- This may be left-over from distribution requirements of curriculum prior to CORE.
- Dean will reach out to the Provost to see how this College requirement came about and seek out further information to address questions.
- Regardless of how 'requirement' originated, to remove COMM 210 as program requirement, a program/ department would need to justify its removal. This justification may be through the requirement of specific class/es or just an overall view of the required, assessed coursework done by students.



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Department of Politics and International Relations

Re: Proposal to remove Comm 210 as a requirement for IR and Polsc majors

Comm 210 Course description:

Emphasizes effective speaking techniques for public as well as everyday situations. Focuses on identifying, organizing and presenting facts, opinions and values to a variety of audiences.

**Our argument**

From our introductory classes through to our Senior Research Seminars, political science and international relations majors are required—through a variety of assignments, to identify, organize and present facts, analysis and conclusions to a variety of audiences, from their peers in class discussions to the faculty in class presentations, SASH posters, conferences presentations and our senior research panels.

Regarding what will replace it, the options are numerous from Macroeconomics to foreign language. This question is best answers in individual advisement sessions.

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