

## Curric Affairs Committee Weds 17 Sept 2014 Agenda 3-4 pm Reich 300

audio conference information: 1-800-893-8850 Participants' PIN: 1109306

invited: Brian Cook, Catherine Hanks, Cindy Hardy, Dennis Moser, Joan Hornig, Ken Abramowicz, Rainer Newberry, Rob Duke (remote), Todd Radenbaugh (remote), Doug Goering, Jayne Harvie, Alex Fitts, Carol Gering, Casey Byrne, Holly Sherouse, Libby Eddy, Linda Hapsmith, Stacey Howdeshell

### I. Approve revised minutes of Sept 3 meeting

### II. Old business

#### A. *proposed changes in Univ Regs RE General Education*

*David Valentine (pres, fac alliance) felt these should not go forward to various fac senates until each proposed change has a justification and an explanation*

#### B. *Revised Capstone Motion (next page)*

#### C. *Progress Report from O/W/C subcommittee*

*Problems with current O/W: no consistent outcomes assessments*

*W regulations are relatively complicated and subject to interpretation; O regulations are more flexible but very complicated (2+ pages to cover a variety of possibilities)*

*Proposed C: only writing is assessed*

*Proposed C regulations are both complex and vague*

#### A. General guidelines for 3-credit course with "W" designator

1. The lower-division writing sequence **will be** a prerequisite for all "W"- designated courses.
2. Instructors **are encouraged** to have students write an ungraded diagnostic composition on or near the first day of class to help assess writing ability and general competence in the discipline. [If diagnostic tests indicate that remedial work may be needed, teachers can set up specialized tutoring for their students with UAF Writing Center tutors.]
3. Teachers regularly evaluate students' writing and inform students of their progress. If a major written project (research project) is part of the course, the project **should be** supervised in stages. **If possible**, a writing activity should comprise a major portion of the final examination.
4. At least **one personal conference should be devoted** to the student's writing per term and drafts of papers should receive evaluation from the teacher and/or peers.
5. Written material **should** comprise a majority of the graded work in the course for it to be designated "intensive." "Written material" can consist of quizzes and exams with short answers or essay sections, journals, field notes, informal responses to reading or class lectures, structured essays, research projects, performance reviews, lab reports, or any forms suitable to the discipline being taught.

#### B. Guidelines for the "W" designator in Technical courses

6. In order to ensure that technical disciplines can meet the goals of the writing intensive requirements without compromising the technical quality of their courses, such disciplines may substitute longer courses or a series of courses (typically 1-credit labs) for each of the two necessary 3-credit writing intensive or "W"-designated courses. Courses meeting all the general guidelines will, of course, also be acceptable.
7. The longer course option allows the "W" designator for a 4- or 5-credit course in which written material comprises a portion of the grade equivalent to "a majority" of a 3-credit course. The course must also meet the other general guidelines.
8. The series option allows a student to replace one or both 3- credit "W" courses with a series of courses, each of which may be less than three credits--e.g., a series of 1-credit or 1-credit-equivalent laboratories. Each series, however, must sum to the equivalent of at least one 3-credit "W"- designated course. The initial course in the series will be designated "**W1**" and, while less than three credits, will fulfill all the other general requirements for a "W." The subsequent courses will base a majority of the grade on written material. Students must take the "W1" course before taking the other courses in the series.

## MOTION proposed Capstone Requirement Effective Fall 2016 (??)

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**The Curricular Affairs Committee moves that the Faculty Senate make the following changes to the UAF baccalaureate requirements:**

Each student must complete a capstone experience in the student's major or program, as described below. It will be the responsibility of each Department, Program, and (or) College/School to create, deliver, evaluate, and assess their capstone experience.

**Rationale:** This change is proposed in support of satisfying UAF's Learning outcome #4: *"Integrate and apply learning, including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies, adapting them to new settings, questions, and responsibilities, and forming a foundation for lifelong learning. Preparation will be demonstrated through production of a creative or scholarly project that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation, and reflection."*

Many UAF Departments and Programs currently have baccalaureate capstone experience requirements; the purpose of this change is to create a UAF-wide requirement. Hence, we envision this proposed change as not adding a significant burden to UAF faculty and students.

### **Proposed criteria for Capstone Experience**

The Capstone experience will demonstrate students' ability to integrate a wide range of learning. Students will make connections among ideas, skills, and bodies of knowledge, and will synthesize and transfer their learning to new, complex areas of inquiry, products, or situations within or beyond conventional coursework. Specifically, the Capstone will:

- Require that students demonstrate the appropriate skill levels in communication and (as appropriate) quantification.
- Integrate learning from major requirements.
- Guide students through a project or experience relevant to their educational goals
- Provide a basis for evaluating student performance
- Be suitable as a potential means for assessing the major requirements

### **Proposed Instructional Objectives**

The student will integrate and apply learning from multiple disciplines and skill sets.

The student will demonstrate an ability to contribute to existing bodies of knowledge, work in professional settings, and (or) create products relevant to the student's further educational, career and life goals.

The experience will demonstrate the student possesses intellectual and practical capabilities at a level expected of one receiving a baccalaureate degree from a major university.

Each student will complete a body of work as the culmination of the student's baccalaureate education

### **Course examples**

NORS 484 W/O Seminar in Northern Studies: An interdisciplinary seminar focusing on topics relating to the North with emphasis on the physical sciences, the peoples, and the socioeconomic and political aspects of the area. Specialists in the various fields will assign readings and conduct discussions. Prerequisites: ENGL F111X; ENGL F211X or ENGL F213X; junior standing; or permission of instructor. (3+0)

PS F499 W Senior Thesis: Thesis will draw from the literature in at least two sub-fields of political science (U.S. government/politics, political theory, public law, comparative politics, international relations) in its analysis.

Prerequisites: ENGL F111X; ENGL F211X or ENGL F213X; PS F101; PS F222; senior standing; permission of instructor. (1.5+0+7.5)

### **Non-course examples**

Portfolio internship performance / presentation participation in competition professional publication

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