

RESOLUTION PASSED BY FACULTY SENATE AT THE MAY 2015 MEETING

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Faculty Senate recognizes the need to revise the Core Curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the Senate wishes to widen student choice in the university's general education; and

WHEREAS, the General Education Revitalization Committee has proposed a "classification list" system (lists of approved courses which fulfill arts, humanities, and social science general education requirements) to replace the current Perspectives on the Human Condition (PHC) courses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that during the 2015-2016 academic year the UAF Faculty Senate will adopt a classification list system that will meet general education requirements in arts, humanities, and social sciences in lieu of the currently-mandated PHC courses, with the new system to take full effect as of the 2016-17 Course Catalog.

PROPOSED DISCUSSION ITEM FOR FAC SENATE SEPT 2015 MEETING

The Faculty Senate moves to replace the upper division Oral (O) and Written (W) requirement with the requirement that each degree program must satisfy the following Communications Learning Outcomes within the degree program:

UAF undergraduates will demonstrate effective communication when they are able to:

- Explain disciplinary content using a variety of modes of communication.
- Communicate to audiences in the discipline using appropriate disciplinary conventions.
- Translate disciplinary content to audiences outside the discipline, making disciplinary knowledge relevant to broader communities.
- Integrate feedback from others to enhance or revise communication.

Each baccalaureate degree program must submit a Communications Plan that demonstrates how students will achieve each of the learning outcomes as part of the requirements of the major or degree program. Not all courses or requirements need to support every outcome; however, all the outcomes must be met by the completion of the degree.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2016

RATIONALE: The GERC committee and Curricular Affairs, as part of their work to revise UAF's core requirements, propose replacing the current W/O designators with a requirement that students achieve the Communications Learning Outcomes that are integrated into each baccalaureate degree program and major.

1. The responsibility for ensuring that students achieve these Communications Learning Outcomes is being moved from the University level (via specific O and W courses) to the department level (via the requirements of the degree programs), and from a specific degree requirement (taking two Ws and one O) to a requirement that is achieved by the student completing the degree requirements associated with their program.
2. To ensure student achievement of these Communications Learning Outcomes, each department will demonstrate how their program addresses these learning outcomes by developing a Communications Plan that integrates communication into each degree or program, typically via a collection of lower and/or upper level courses and/or non-curricular degree requirements chosen to meet the needs of the

particular program. This should be done in such a way that all the outcomes are met somewhere in the courses required for the completion of a degree. The Communications Plan for each degree will describe the collection of courses (both in and possibly out of the department) and other requirements (if any) and how they contribute to meeting these outcomes.

3. Departments will submit the Communications Plan for each degree program as part of their SLOA plans, and subsequently, submit a short summary report addressing how the plan is working (and revising the plan as necessary). Once a department has submitted a plan, which will include a required path/collection of paths through the degree wherein students will achieve the Communications Learning Outcomes, then all students in that degree will achieve the Communications Learning Outcomes by virtue of satisfying the degree requirements of that program.

4. Committees will be formed within each school or college (and made up of at least 1 member) to regularly review communications plans submitted by programs.

5. An additional checkbox will be added to Major/Minor course change forms asking “Does this change affect Communications Outcomes Plans?”, so that departments are aware of the impact of potential changes.

6. Existing O and W designators will remain in place (if appropriate) for a period of 2 years from Fall 2016 to facilitate students under catalogs with O/W requirements.

7. Departments should submit as part of their Communications Plans a clarification for how they will handle the transition away from O/W designators for students who fall under a catalog prior to Fall 2016.

8. A web page (similar to the SLOA) will be established where communications plans are collected and disseminated across the university.

Straw-man UA Common Calendar for AY2017 - updated as of 082515

| Fall 2016 | | <i>Common Calendar Rule</i> | <i>Standing Committee Consensus?</i> |
|--------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Term Start | Aug 29 (M) | <i>Common start date</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Add/Drop Deadline | Sep 9 (F) | <i>2nd Friday after term start</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Fee Payment | | | |
| UAS | Aug 23 (T) | | |
| UAF | Sep 12 (M) | | |
| UAA | Sep 19 (M) | | |
| Withdrawal | Nov 4 (F) | <i>10th Friday of instruction</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Thanksgiving | Nov 24-25 (TH-F) | <i>Federal Holiday</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Term End | Dec 10 (Sa) | <i>Conclusion of 14th week of instruction</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Finals | Dec 12-17 (M-Sa) | <i>Immediately follows Term End</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Spring 2017 | | | |
| Term Start | Jan 9 (M) | <i>Common start date</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Add/Drop Deadline | Jan 20 (F) | <i>2nd Friday after term start</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Fee Payment | | | |
| UAS | Jan 4 (W) | | |
| UAF | Jan 23 (M) | | |
| UAA | Jan 30 (M) | | |
| Spring Break | Mar 6-10 (M-F) | <i>9th week of the term</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Withdrawal | Mar 24 (F) | <i>10th Friday of instruction</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Term End | Apr 22 (Sa) | <i>Conclusion of 14th week of instruction</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| Finals | Apr 24 - 29 | <i>Immediately follows Term End</i> | <i>Yes</i> |