

ISSUE 3: Codification of Senate policies on UK Core into Senate Rules

The SREC recommends that the Senate Council direct the UK Core committee to make the first draft of codification into the Senate Rules of the of the Senate's adopted policies on UK Core (which superceded the old rules on the University Studies Program). The SREC will then make any necessary editorial adjustments, for submission to the Senate through the Senate Council.

ISSUE 4: Unclear Senate Policy on Graduate Writing Requirement

The SREC discussed the situation with the Senate's previous action to establish a University-wide 'graduation writing requirement' (GWR), as a part of the previous USP degree requirements. At that previous time the administrative feasibility of the GWR was supported by the administration's intent to supply instructors for GWR courses in the English Department (for those students whose home departments had not opted to provide their own unit's activity to meet the writing requirement). However, subsequently, those intended GWR courses did not become provided by the English Department, yet students continued to become enrolled in UK undergraduate degree programs with no means by which to fulfill the Senate's GWR requirement. Then, the UK Core was adopted which superceded previous undergraduate degree requirements, including the 'old' GWR. This situation has caused the Provost Office's Division of Undergraduate Education to state at its web site (dated March 2012):

Quote on

The Graduation Writing Requirement is in the process of being revised. Students should confer with their advisors to discuss the status of this requirement and these courses.

Students who are completing a degree under the Fall 2004 thru Summer II 2011 catalog will continue to be required to complete the GWR. Students can view the course options in APEX and can register for any GWR course as long as they have met the prerequisites for the specific course. Students must still have completed the USP Writing Requirement and have 30 earned hours at the time in which the class is taken for the student to have the GWR notation added in APEX and on the transcript.

The GWR or CRM requirement will not be in place for students who are in the Fall 2011 catalog, until the Senate acts. However, students must be advised that this is a temporary situation and that they may be required to satisfy either the GWR or the CRM, depending on what is approved. This is not an escape clause! This includes any new student or any current UK student who changes to the UK Core curriculum.

Quote Off

At this time, the University Senate has not acted to make clear that a GWR as such existed prior to adoption of UK Core now also exists as part of or in addition to UK Core. This is a very serious situation. *The SREC urges that the Senate Council take action to cause the appropriate Senate bodies to contemplate and propose for final Senate action an appropriate educational policy resolution, including, for example, that the Senate either waive the GWR requirement for students that matriculated under the 'old' USP system or decide a substitution for that requirement.* The Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies is currently preparing a proposal for the University Senate's consideration to remedy the situation; that proposal can serve as a launch point for the relevant Senate bodies to utilize towards the final Senate action.

ISSUE 5: Unclear Senate Policy on Foreign Language Admissions Requirement

The SREC interpreted the following with respect to 'foreign language requirement' at the University of Kentucky.

A- There is no University level foreign language requirement for degrees awarded through the Graduate School (that requirement having been removed by vote of the Graduate Faculty in 1990).

B- The Senate Rules concerning an undergraduate foreign language requirement that were "currently existing" at the time of Senate adoption of UK Core were:

SR 4.2.1.1.C (Pre-College Curriculum): "the University Senate *recommends* that high school students complete at least two years of a foreign language." (emphasis added here)

SR 5.4.3.3 (University Studies Requirements): "Each undergraduate student must complete ... Foreign Language (2 yrs high school/1 year college)"

SR 4.1.0 (Application for Admission): "A student who has credit for three units of a foreign language in high school may not receive degree credit for the first year of that language in the University."

C - Under the above Senate Rules, at the time UK Core was adopted, (i) there was not existing a per se Senate *requirement* that persons have two years of high school foreign language *for admission* to the University, and that (ii) a student could satisfy the Senate Rules for undergraduate degree requirements by either having 2 yrs of high school foreign language or 1 year of college foreign language or a prorated combination of both high school and college foreign language.

D – Consequent to interpretation ‘C’ above, the Footnote 3 for Learning Outcome IV of the UK Core document was not correct when it stated:

“Current University of Kentucky entrance requirements include 2 years of second-language student in high school...” (emphasis added here)

E – Consequent to ‘C’ and ‘D’ above, and consequent to the use of the word “should” instead of “must” or “shall” in the following text, it is not clear that it is a Senate-codified admissions requirement under UK Core that the applicant must have completed two years of high school foreign language:

“Current University of Kentucky entrance requirements include 2 years of second-language student in high school; this knowledge requirement should be assessed upon students’ entrance to the University, as a prerequisite for the fulfillment of Learning Outcome IV.”

F. In addition, the 13:KAR:2:020 issued by the Council on Postsecondary Education does not make a blanket requirement for admission to UK of 2yrs of high school foreign language

Under Section 2 (4), the CPE requirement for a foreign language for admission to UK does NOT apply to

- A student who has already earned a bachelor’s degree and is now seeking a second bachelor’s degree.

Under Section 2 (6), the CPE requirement for a foreign language for admission to UK does NOT apply to

- An adult student;
- A student entering baccalaureate degree status with twenty-four (24) or more semester credit hours applicable to a baccalaureate degree with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 on a 4.00 scale;
- Active duty military personnel, their spouses, and their dependents;
- A student enrolled in a community or technical college or a community college type program at a university;
- A nonresident student who has otherwise met the University’s own admissions requirements and taken the ACT
- Any international student (even, say, a student from a native English-speaking country)

The SREC is cognizant that there may have been an intent by proponents of the UK Core document that was approved by the Senate, that under UK Core there is

an admissions requirement of 2 years of high school foreign language. *The SREC recommends that the Senate Council direct the UK Core Committee (which is an instrument of the Undergraduate Council that in turn is chaired by a member of the Provost's Office) to ascertain if such a requirement was an intent of the proponents, or is an otherwise meritorious academic content of UK Core, and if so propose specific language for University Senate action specific wording for the University Senate Rules that will codify that academic content.* The Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies is at this time preparing a report and proposal on the above matters that could serve as a launch point for deliberation toward final Senate action.

In addition until such language is passed, the Undergraduate Bulletin needs to be corrected from:

“Any first-time freshman or transfer student must demonstrate that they have completed two high school credits in a single foreign language, or two semesters at the postsecondary level. A student who has not completed the high school foreign language requirement will be required to take a two-semester sequence in one foreign language at the University of Kentucky prior to graduation.”

to:

“Most Kentucky residents must complete two high school credits in a single foreign language (the Kentucky "precollege curriculum") in order to matriculate at the University of Kentucky. Students who may be admitted without having fulfilled this requirement include: [list of exceptions from CPE regulation, with no reference to a UK language requirement **because one does not currently exist**]

ISSUE 6. Reference to Nonexistent Form in SR 5.1.3.2

The SREC considered the interpretation concerning the reference in SR 5.1.3.2 ('incomplete grade' rule) to a "standard form provided by the Registrar," where in practice no such form exists.

5.1.3.2 Grade I [US: 9/14/87; US: 10/11/93; US: 12/8/97]

For each I grade assigned, the Instructor of Record shall complete an appropriate file record **on a standard form provided by the Registrar**, which shall include the following:

- A.** the name of the student;
- B.** the course number and hours of credit;
- C.** semester and year of enrollment;
- D.** signature of the Instructor of Record;
- E.** a brief statement of the reason(s) for recording the incomplete; and
- F.** specific instructions on how alternate grades on the work to be completed will affect the final grade;
- G.** the specific time requirement (not to exceed 12 months) set by the Instructor of Record for removal of the I grade and consequences of not removing the I grade; and
- H.** signature of the student, if feasible.

The Instructor of Record shall provide a complete copy of this record to the student and the department chair at the time the I grade is reported.

The SREC interpreted that now that the process for entering "I" grades and changing "I" grades is completely electronic, there does not exist a paper "form" within the meaning of SR 5.1.3.2. The SREC expressed concern that in the prior transition to electronic handling of "I" grades, that the electronic system is not capturing the information items A-H listed in SR 5.1.3.2; nor apparently is that information being systematically collected at the level of the department from which the "I" grade was rendered. The SREC noted that the latter situation creates a problem for 'next Instructors' of a course who inherit an "I" grade, but who do not have the ready means to know of the "I" grades still 'hanging' in their course, nor have the background information as to why the "I" was conferred and what completing action was required by the previous Instructor for removal of the "I" grade. The SREC interpreted that

The Senate's policy concerning what information about "I" grades is important to collect and retain is an issue regarding academic standards, and the Senate Council should assign this matter to the Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee.