



December 10, 2013

MEMO

TO: Dr. Lee Blonder, Senate Council Chair  
FROM: Dr. Benjamin C. Withers, Interim Associate Provost  
RE: Fast Track Program Changes for GCCR

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The Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) Advisory Committee is making excellent progress in their work toward the implementation of the new requirement. For them to be successful in their goal of full implementation by the Fall of 2014, we need to develop a way to quickly and accurately record program changes related to the requirement in the University Bulletin.

EVERY undergraduate degree program will have to be changed to incorporate the new GCCR, and this will present a significant challenge to Undergraduate Council, not to mention Senate Council, if we require a full blown review all the way to Senate.

We are fortunate that UK Core provides a successful precedent for an expedited program review process. When UK Core was implemented, Colleges were allowed to compile and send a memo to Undergraduate Council and the Registrar showing the Gen Ed Table of requirements along with a description of how hours freed up from the old USP would be redistributed into electives, pre-major, or major requirements. Senate Council prepared a template for the memo to ensure consistency and accuracy of the information. This process allowed the Registrar to make the necessary changes to the Bulletin in time and also greatly reduced the workload on the Senate Councils and Committees as well as on the Senate Council Staff.

The two co-chairs of the GCCR Advisory committee have asked me if it were possible for us to follow a similar procedure with this program change. Clearly, this is a matter for Senate Council, so I am forwarding their request along with my positive recommendation. I suggest that GCCR proposals having been vetted and approved by the GCCR should receive all necessary internal college approvals and then be sent directly to the Senate Council office, bypassing the Undergraduate Council. The program changes will then be posted on a web transmittal for final Senate approval.

As with UK Core, changes approved through this fast-track procedure would be restricted to those directly related to GCCR. Programs would be expressly forbidden to forward unrelated changes through this process. Any program that proposes changes not strictly necessary for implementation of GCCR would still have to go through the regular process of program approval.

It is understood that the GCCR co-chairs will work directly with Senate Council staff to produce a template that colleges will use to report these changes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin C. Withers', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Benjamin C. Withers,  
Interim Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education