

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 26, 2016

TO: Katherine McCormick, Chair, Senate Council

FROM: Scott A. Yost
Jane Jensen
Co-chairs GCCR committee on behalf of the 9+ member advisory committee

RE: Implications to students due to no GCCR substitution policy by University Senate.

Based on Senate action at the September 2016 Senate meeting, we currently have no guidance on how to review or approve any substitutions to a degree program's GCCR requirement. Without a substitution policy for guiding the Registrar's Office to update a degree audit for a student, we also have no guidelines to award GCCR substitutions for transfer courses. Subsequently, the GCCR Advisory Committee cannot currently approve substitutions or transfer equivalencies for programs' GCCR.

The GCCR is not just a program requirement but also a university graduation requirement as clearly spelled out in SR 5.4.3.1. Thus approvals of changes to a program's GCCR cannot happen without the oversight of an advisory committee at some point.

In the short term, we propose that departments and colleges follow the process used during the implementation phase of the GCCR. If a substitution or transfer equivalency is desired, the "appropriate administrator or governing unit in the student's college" will notify the Registrar and the GCCR committee of the recommended **exception** to the GCCR, on a case-by-case basis. We recommend that a fillable online form be established (can you work with the Provost and IT) so that this correspondence can be shared between the Registrar's office and the GCCR Advisory Committee.

For now, degree Program GCCR exceptions will be monitored by the GCCR advisory committee as **waivers** of the Senate Rules. The GCCR advisory committee will provide education and guidance to departments on how best to sustain the intention of the Senate Rules regarding GCCR, but it cannot approve substitutions. As such, these degree program exceptions should be considered "waivers" of the Senate Rules. This may be seen negatively by some programs' accreditation agencies, but should be resolved soon once we have a substitution policy in place.

Please note that the GCCR committee is committed to trying to find a solution that the Senate can embrace. But until a policy is in place, the reality is that the GCCR Advisory Committee cannot approve substitutions. We recommend monitoring exceptions/waivers to the GCCR by the designated college official (likely the Associate Dean for Academics).

Cc: Mike Shanks, Registrar's Office
Sheila Brothers