

December 14, 2004

To: Fred Fairchild, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

From: Reginald Pittman, Chair, University General Education Council

Re: Option to Modify UGE College Requirements

Cc: Jan Wissman, Chair, ICCP

Via e-mail vote, the UGE Council accepts the revisions in language suggested by the Provost Designate for UGE and endorses the decision to forward the proposal to the Executive Committee. A clean copy of the revised proposal is attached.

To review for the Academic Affairs Committee and the Executive Council:

Last December the UGE Procedures Committee, appointed by Provost Coffman and Faculty Senate President Zabel, submitted a set of recommendations proposed to enhance or improve the current UGE policies and procedures. Recommendation F dealt with the possible revision of College UGE Program Requirements to include upper-division courses and experiences specifically designed for majors.

The UGE Council invited Dr. Linda Brigham, head of the Department of English, to attend one of our meetings to discuss the potential and the ramifications of the writing section of the proposal. We also considered input from ICCP, the Inter-College Coordination Panel. After much discussion, the UGE Council elected to submit the following proposal to the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee.

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**Proposal:**

All undergraduate colleges of the University will have the option to modify their respective College University General Education (UGE) Program Requirements to designate selected upper-division major-specific courses or experiences as UGE equivalent. These courses and experiences would be subject to the approval process of the UGE Council to ensure continuity with existing UGE criteria. The courses or experiences must incorporate the three UGE benchmarks and significant advanced writing experience for students.

----- **Optional UGE Equivalent: To be considered for approval by each College** -----

The College of \_\_\_\_\_ will allow undergraduates to include as part of their UGE program requirements a maximum of three (3) credit hours from designated upper-division courses or experiences that have been approved as UGE equivalent. Such upper-division courses or experiences will be specifically designed for majors, and incorporate the three UGE benchmarks (see "A" below) and significant advanced writing experience (see "B" below).

**A. The three (3) UGE benchmarks:**

- An active learning environment
- Experiential context for the matter to be studied
- The opportunity for students to seek connections across knowledge/disciplines

**B. Significant Advanced Writing Experience**

The goal is to provide intense frequent writing experiences for students, comparable to the writing norm for the discipline or the profession. Target audiences could include professionals, peers, and/or clients. Students will be given adequate feedback, written and/or oral, on content and expression. Following feedback, students must be given opportunities to apply the feedback as part of a comprehensive process, either in revision of original writing or in subsequent writing components.

***NOTE:** Colleges that institute the option above must forward changes in their respective College UGE Program Requirements to the UGE Council. The UGE Council must approve upper-division courses and experiences to be designated as UGE equivalent.*