Senate Council Action RE: Extension of Suspension of Oral Communications Requirement

On Monday, August 31, 2006, the Senate Council voted to extend until Fall 2009 the suspension of the oral communications requirement (meaning the incoming class of 2009 would be the last class for which the extension were suspended) and to request a report from the University Studies Committee on the progress for a solution, to be submitted to the Senate Council by the end of January 2007.

The motion passed unanimously, and goes to the Senate with a positive recommendation.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheila Brothers
Senate Council Office

FROM: Sharon Gill

DATE: May 22, 2006

RE: University Studies Committee

At a recent University Studies Committee meeting, following continued discussion of the suspended Oral Communication requirement, a motion was made to extend the suspension until Fall 2008. The motion was seconded and followed by a unanimous yes vote. The Committee is also requesting a hiatus to new demands for Oral Communication instruction (e.g. required as pre-major, etc.)

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Gill, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 4:38 PM
To: Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: RE: Univ Stud Cmte Memo Dated 5/22/06

Sheila,

We had representatives from Communications meet with us and they are very much in favor of extending the suspension of the oral communication requirement. After discussions with them, Dr. Kraemer put forth a motion to extend the deadline and Jimmy Cathey seconded that motion. The vote was unanimous. Let me know if you require any additional information.

Sharon

-----Original Message-----
From: Brothers, Sheila C
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 4:31 PM
To: Gill, Sharon
Cc: Kraemer, Philipp; Tagavi, Kaveh A
Subject: Univ Stud Cmte Memo Dated 5/22/06

Good afternoon, Sharon. I am writing in regard to the suspension of the oral communications requirement, as communicated in your May 22 memo to me. Because the original suspension was voted on by both the Senate Council and Senate in 2004, this will also need to be presented at live Senate Council and Senate meetings. I anticipate the Senate will be able to vote on this at either the September or October meeting.

Before this can go to either body, I need to have the proposal's documentation, if there is any. There is no mention of who initiated this proposal, nor any information about whether or not College of Communications & Information Studies faculty approved the continued suspension, etc. A brief rationale for this request would also be appreciated.

Please send the back-up paperwork, including a Review and Consultation Summary sheet (blank attached).

Thank you,
Sheila

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MEMORANDUM

JAN 13 2003

Date: **January 12, 2004**

To: **Senate Council**

From: **Phil Kraemer, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education**

Re: **Proposed Change in USP (Oral Communications)**

The USP Committee has spent considerable time discussing the dilemma we face regarding the Oral Communications requirement of USP: an excessive and growing demand for courses that cannot be met. The problem is not merely funding, but rather it includes an insufficient number of qualified instructors to meet the needs of our students. The Department of Communication discussed several options that address this problem with the USP Committee. These proposals were based on thorough and careful analysis that included comparisons with benchmark institutions and best practices. The Department concluded that only one option is tenable, which is to delete the requirement from USP. The attached proposal summarizes the rationale and recommended action. This proposal is supported by majority vote of the USP Committee as well as by Dean David Johnson of the College of Communications and Information Studies.

The Department of Communication intends to continue offering courses that develop oral communication skills, which will satisfy accreditation requirements of several programs that depend on such courses. The University will continue to assess oral communication competencies of its graduates to ensure that all programs develop these skills in our undergraduates.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Senate Council to discuss this proposal as well as some other important issues pertinent to undergraduate education at UK.

Proposal
USP - Oral Communication Requirement

Given significant enrollment increases at UK over the past three years, expectations for this trend to continue, diminished state funding of the University, and insufficient instructional resources and qualified instructors, the Oral Communication requirement of USP can no longer be implemented without impacting students' timely graduation. Consequently, the USP Committee recommends that the requirement be deleted.

We value the development of oral communication skills, and expect that all programs will strive to meet SACS oral communication requirements as part of their programs. We expect that many undergraduate programs will continue to require completion of existing oral communication courses (COM 181, COM 199, COM 252, COM 281, COM 287, TA 225) as part of their major program. For those programs that decide to meet the SACS requirement in alternative ways, we expect them to employ appropriate pedagogical and assessment strategies to develop oral communication skills in their students.