

Recommendation:

That the University Senate approve the revised Senate Rule 3.2, concerning creating academic programs and making academic changes to academic programs, effective immediately.

Background:

This revision constitutes a part of the process during this academic year of the University Senate updating Senate Rules, Section 3, to be in conformity with changes policies of the UK Board of Trustees (Governing Regulations), the Council on Postsecondary Education, and SACS, and to incorporate the increasingly more electronic nature of the course academic program approval process.

3.2.0 PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND CHANGES [US: 11/14/88; US: 10/11/99; US: DATE]

The faculties of educational units or graduate programs initiate proposals for new academic programs and for changes in existing academic programs. Such proposals shall be processed as provided in SR 3.2.

3.2.1 Definitions

A. Proposals for consolidation, transfer, discontinuation, or significant reduction in academic programs are reviewed pursuant to SR 3.3.2. Changes in content of courses but not otherwise involving changes in academic programs shall be approved under SR 3.3 and not under SR 3.2. When new programs involve new courses or changes in courses, the programs and courses will receive simultaneous consideration under SR 3.2.

B. Changes to an academic program include changes to:

- the requirements for admission,
- the specific courses, the number of credit hours, or other requirements, for a certificate or degree,
- a major, minor, area, core, or track within an undergraduate degree,
- a core or concentration within a master's degree,
- a core or specialization within a doctoral degree (either a research/scholarship doctorate, a professional practice doctorate, or an advanced practice doctorate),
- change in mode of delivery (e.g., to a distance learning or correspondence format),
- the title of a certificate, degree, major, minor, area, core, track, concentration or specialization

The establishment of a joint degree offering with another institution is considered as an academic program change for the purposes of SR 3.2.

3.2.2 Forms to be Used

Senate Council-approved forms and other mechanisms to initiate proposals for new undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees, and for undergraduate, graduate or first professional certificates, or to initiate changes to these academic programs, are available at [link] and shall be used to initiate proposals under SR 3.2. In the case of academic programs in the health care colleges, the initiator of the proposal shall contact the chair of the Health Care Colleges Council (HCCC) or, in the case of the College of Law, the appropriate associate dean, for information on the appropriate proposal submission format.

3.2.3 Procedures to be Used

A. Approval by the Educational Unit Faculty [US: DATE]

1. The Faculty of the originating educational unit makes the decision whether to approve proposals for new academic programs or changes to academic programs (including changes to the educational unit's University Scholars program and to dual degree programs) (GR VII.A.6(b); SR 3.2.A.3, below). For the Honors Program and UK Core, the "Faculty" within the meaning of this rule is the body identified by the University Senate to perform the educational policy-making functions of the respective program. For graduate programs, "the Faculty" is the voting graduate faculty of that program (SR 3.2.A.4, below). [US: DATE – SREC note: be sure to include dates of those Senate identifications]

In a manner prescribed by the College Faculty Rules, the chair/director shall forward to the College Faculty a proposal arising under SR 3.2. The chair/director's transmittal attests thereby that the proposal has been approved in accordance with the Rules of the Faculty of the originating unit. The chair(s)/director(s) may include separate opinion(s) on the academic merits or on the administrative feasibility of the proposal.

Dual degree programs are simultaneously considered for approval by the respective unit faculties pursuant to the above procedures. One of the department chair(s)/director(s) shall forward the approved proposal to the College Faculty, or, in the case of dual degree programs that cross colleges, to the each College Faculty.

2. In cases of proposals concerning undergraduate or professional certificates or degrees, the respective College Faculty makes the decision whether to approve the proposal, in a manner pursuant to its College Rules (GR VII.A.4.(c)). The dean shall forward an approved proposal to the appropriate academic council of the Senate (SR 3.2.B), attesting thereby that the proposal has been approved in accordance with the College Faculty Rules. The dean may include a separate opinion on the academic merits of the proposal (GR VII.B.3). The dean shall include a statement of administrative feasibility. Proposals concerning degree programs, or concerning certificates that report to an office outside of a college, shall also include a statement of administrative feasibility from the Office of the Provost.

Dual degree programs are simultaneously considered for approval by the respective college faculties pursuant to the above procedures. The respective deans may include separate opinions on the academic merits or the administrative feasibility of the proposal. One of the deans shall forward a single dual degree proposal to the appropriate academic council of the Senate.

3. In the case of proposals for graduate certificates or degrees, a proposal approved by the Faculty of the graduate program shall be forwarded by the Director of Graduate Studies to the dean of the college that contains the home educational unit of the graduate program. If so prescribed by the College Rules, the proposal may be reviewed by, and advisory opinion added by, faculty committees/councils of that college and by the dean of that college. That dean shall include a statement of administrative feasibility from the perspective of that college administration, and shall also include a statement of administrative feasibility from the Office of the Provost. The Director of Graduate Studies shall then forward the proposal to the Dean of the Graduate School. If the proposal is for new graduate program and is arising from faculty in an educational unit that does not already home a graduate program, then the dean of the college containing that educational unit shall perform the administrative processing roles prescribed in this paragraph for the Director of Graduate Studies.

4. UK Core Program. Changes in the UK Core Program need approval of only the Senate's designated UK Core committee prior to submission to the Senate Council and do not need the approval of any other college or academic council. Courses offered as a part of UK Core are processed through regular procedures under SR 3.3. [US: DATE][need date of Senate designation of the UK Core committee]

B. Approval by Academic Council [US: 10/11/99; SREC: 6/8/06; [US: DATE]]

1. Jurisdiction. The dean shall forward the proposal to the appropriate academic council as provided in this subpart SR 3.2.B.1. Responsibility for the approval of proposals concerning academic programs shall be vested in the appropriate academic council as follows: [US: DATE]

(a) Health care college professional programs. Proposals concerning either a professional certificate or a degree program in a health profession that are recommended by a health care college shall be forwarded first to the HCCC. The HCCC shall act for the University Senate to make a final decision to approved such proposals, except when the proposal requires final approval by either the Board of Trustees or the Council on Postsecondary Education, wherein such cases the chair of the HCCC shall recommend the approved proposal to the Senate Council (SR 1.3.4.C).

(b) Other proposals arising from a health care college. Proposals for an undergraduate certificate or degree shall be first forwarded to the HCCC if the program involves the students in health care practices. If approved by the HCCC, the chair of the HCCC shall forward the proposal concerning an undergraduate certificate or degree to the Undergraduate Council (subpart c, below). Proposals from health care colleges for graduate certificates or degrees are not processed by the HCCC but shall be processed as in subpart d. [US: DATE]

(c) Undergraduate certificates and degrees. All proposals concerning undergraduate certificate or degree programs shall be forwarded to the Undergraduate Council [US: DATE]

(d) Graduate certificates and degrees. All proposals concerning graduate certificates and degrees shall be forwarded to the Graduate Council. [US: DATE]

(e) Transmittals and notifications. New professional degrees or changes in professional degree programs in the College of Law do not require approval by an academic council and are transmitted by the dean of the College of Law directly to the Senate Council Office. If the curriculum of a professional residency or fellowship program is planned to require 18 or more credit bearing hours of Senate-approved courses this information shall be provided to the Senate Council for reporting to the Council of Postsecondary Education. [US: DATE]

2. Within 30 days of initial receipt of the proposal, the academic council(s) will take action on the proposal or notify the college as to the status and reason for delay. The academic council will evaluate the proposal for compliance with rules and regulations, and for its academic merit. When the academic council approves a proposal, the Chair of the academic council shall forward its evaluation and recommendation to the Senate Council. If the academic council disapproves the proposal, the chair of the academic council shall notify the college. [US: DATE]

3. The Senate Council Office shall review proposals for new certificates or degrees for compliance with current rules and regulations. In the case of final approvals of proposals by the HCCC, the Senate Council Office shall notify the Registrar and Provost. In the cases of all other

proposals, the Senate Council Office shall forward the proposals to the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) for review. The SAPC shall submit its evaluation and recommendation to the Senate Council.

C. Final University Approval [US: 10/11/99; US: 2/1003 US: DATE]

1. New Certificates and Degrees

(a) The Senate Council shall review the proposal and take appropriate action. If the Senate Council approves the proposal for consideration by the Senate, the Senate Council shall place the proposal on the University Senate agenda for its action.

-In the case of new degree-granting academic programs, the Senate shall either (1) approve the proposal and forward it through the University Senate Chair (the President) to the Board of Trustees for final University action, including also a Senate recommendation on the organizational placement of the degree program in a particular home educational unit and college, or (2) shall make the final University decision to disapprove and stop action on that proposal.

-In the case of establishment of a new certificate, the Senate shall either (1) make the final University decision to approve the establishment of the certificate, including a recommendation to the Provost on the organizational placement of the certificate in a particular home educational unit and college, or (2) shall make the final decision to disapprove and stop action on that proposal.

In the case of disapproval of a proposal, the Senate Council Office shall notify the college dean that forwarded the proposal. [US: DATE]

(b) When a new certificate or degree has received final University approval, the Senate Council office shall notify the Provost, Registrar and other appropriate entities.

2. Changes to Existing Certificates and Degrees.

(a) Posting. The Senate Council Office shall post proposals to change an existing certificate or degree on the corresponding Senate web site for ten business days. [US: DATE]

(b) Objections. Any University Faculty member can raise an objection to a posted proposal through a member of the University Senate. If a Senator raises an objection to the Senate Council and the objection is not resolved, then the Senator may have the issue placed on the agenda of the next regular Senate Council meeting by having five Senators submit an objection to the Senate Council Office. If the Senate Council deems the objection has merit, then it will place the item on the Senate agenda. The Senate shall be informed about the nature of the objection by information included with the proposal packet. Formal action by the University Senate on the proposal is final Senate action. The Senate Council shall circulate reports of these decisions to the Provost, Registrar and other appropriate entities. [US: DATE]

(c) Final Approval. If no objection is raised to the Senate Council Office within ten business days of the posting, then the proposal is approved. The Senate Council Office will report approvals to the Provost, Registrar and other appropriate entities. [US: DATE]

3. Changes to the Structure of UK Core. In the case of proposals involving significant changes in the nature of UK Core, if the Senate Council approves the proposed changes, the Senate Council shall put the proposal on the Senate agenda for action. [US: DATE]