Proposed Changes to the GCCR requirements, SR 5.4.3.1

Background: In May of 2013 (and implemented for all first-time students entering the University in the Fall of 2014), the Senate approved a replacement to the Graduation Writing Requirement. The Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) had the intent that students will be best served by fulfilling the requirement within the context of their chosen degree program. Students would demonstrate information literacy in the discipline and communicate in styles and modes most appropriate for their anticipated career. At the time of implementation there was no formal assessment requirement nor a substitution policy for transfer students. The GCCR committee was charged with proposing a comprehensive assessment policy and a substitution policy. The two policies have been proposed, as shown in the proposed changes to SR 5.4.3.1

5.4.3.1 Composition and Communication [US: 5/6/2013]

All students on the main campus must satisfy the Composition and Communication requirement in the UK Core. Before graduation, they must also satisfy a more advanced course to fulfill the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR). The faculty in each undergraduate degree program shall implement a Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) appropriate to the academic discipline and professional expectations of the major. (Exception: Students in the Honors Program will continue to satisfy the entire University Writing Requirement through that curriculum.) Each undergraduate program faculty shall articulate this requirement in terms of one or more learning outcomes that will be assessed regularly as required by program accreditation standards and university standards for SACS reaffirmation of accreditation. Each GCCR requirement, learning outcome, and assessment protocol must be vetted and approved by the Senate GCCR Advisory Committee.

Students must successfully complete this requirement after achieving sophomore status and prior to graduation. To satisfy the GCCR, students must earn an average grade of C or better on the designated Composition and Communication (C&C) intensive assignments produced in any given course designated as fulfilling some or all of the GCCR.

A. Requirements

1. The GCCR shall consist of three components, each of which should reflect the standards and practices of the particular discipline:

    (a) one or more written assignments in English that total to at least 4,500 words (the equivalent of 15 pages of double-spaced, typewritten text);

    (b) either an oral assignment in English, in which students must give a formal presentation at least 10 minutes long, or a visual assignment, in which students create at least one significant visual/electronic artifact (e.g., a web site or video presentation);

    (c) an assignment in English that requires the student to demonstrate information literacy in the discipline.

2. The GCCR may be satisfied via either a single GCCR intensive course or a series of GCCR intensive assignments in a series of courses. Faculty may specify that a course offered by another undergraduate program fulfills the GCCR if the faculty in the second undergraduate program so agree.

3. Courses must incorporate a draft/feedback/revision process on GCCR assignments.

B. Assessment of the Program's GCCR

~~Each undergraduate degree program shall identify to the Senate (via the GCCR Advisory Committee) at least one specific program learning outcome and a plan for assessing both the writing and oral or visual components of the GCCR.~~
~~The assessment plan will include (a) clear goals for successful achievement of the GCCR, (b) specific criteria and rubrics for systematically assessing student work, and (c) a cogent description of how assessment results will be utilized to revise GCCR instruction and/or curriculum if the goals are not met.~~
The GCCR Advisory Committee shall monitor each degree program's assessment of GCCR student learning outcome(s) as part of the University Office of Assessment's regular program review and student learning outcome(s) assessment cycle. This is not an additional assessment nor stand-alone process.

1. **Degree Programs GCCR Assessment Plan.** The GCCR Assessment Plan follows the University schedule for Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) assessment. Each undergraduate degree program shall submit an Assessment Plan to the Office of University Assessment which includes their program's SLOs. At least one SLO shall directly align to the GCCR and all SLOs shall be assessed within a three-year cycle.

Based on the degree program's Assessment Plan, the assessment of the GCCR outcome(s) may occur yearly, bi-yearly, or once every three years. The GCCR section in each degree program's assessment plan shall include at least one specific Program Student Learning Outcome for composition and communication outcomes. During the first year, and each year in which the GCCR is being assessed, the degree program shall submit the following:

(a) a plan for assessing the composition components of the GCCR;
(b) a plan for assessing the oral and/*or* visual components of the GCCR;
(c) clear goals, rubrics, and revision plans for GCCR implementation;
(d) a description of assignment(s) and instructions resulting in student artifacts;
(e) a sampling plan for collecting and submitting student artifacts as evidence for GCCR SLOs;
(f) a copy of current assessing rubrics for GCCR assignment(s);
(g) a copy of the current syllabus for GCCR course(s);
(h) For degree programs with outside provider(s) (outside the program's department) of the GCCR, a copy of the current MOU/MOA which details the involvement and roles of the provider(s) and degree program relative to this assessment plan.

2. **Review of the Degree Program's GCCR Assessment Plan.** When submitted

or updated, the GCCR component of the Assessment Plan shall be reviewed by the GCCR Committee, or designee. Based on this review, the degree program's GCCR Assessment Plan shall receive feedback and an evaluation score of either a "Meets Expectations" or "Does Not Meet Expectations".

3. ~~University Assessment of the Degree Program's GCCR Outcomes. When the GCCR SLO is scheduled for assessment, the results shall be included in the program's Annual SLO Assessment Report, which is due on October 31st of each year. As described in the sampling plan, programs shall submit a sample of student artifacts (assignments) for each GCCR approved course. Programs requiring their students to complete courses outside of their home department shall collaborate with the department offering the required GCCR course to ensure artifacts are submitted for assessment. All evaluation feedback on the GCCR outcome shall be provided to the degree program's GCCR Committee/Contact for review.~~

3. **Program GCCR Assessment Noncompliance.** Programs that do not submit a GCCR learning outcomes assessment plan that meets expectations and/or do not submit assessment documentation and artifacts following the approved plan will be provided with technical assistance from the Office of University Assessment for the improvement of their plan and/or find a reasonable solution for submitting artifacts. In addition a status report shall be submitted to the appropriate Associate Dean(s) for follow-up.

C. Approval

Programs shall submit proposals to the Senate GCCR Advisory Committee (see SR establishing this committee) for approval. This Advisory Committee is responsible for:

1. establishing procedures and guidelines for proposal submissions;

2. evaluating programs' implementations of the GCCR and recommending approval (or disapproval) to the Undergraduate Council;

3. establishing and implementing a campus assessment plan for the GCCR.