

Brothers, Sheila

From: Farrell, Herman
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 1:22 PM
To: Bird-Pollan, Jennifer; Brothers, Sheila
Cc: Roberts, Susan
Subject: Proposed Change to SR 4.2.5.
Attachments: 4.2.5 Graduate School w Procedures & revs.pdf; Proposed Change to SR 4-2-5.pdf; SAASC committee meeting 10172018.pdf

The SAASC convened on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 to consider a proposal from Dr. Sue Roberts, Associate Provost for Internationalization, to change Senate Rule 4.2.5 in order to allow for temporary waiver of the requirement of a baccalaureate degree for admission to the Graduate School in instances where there is a cooperative education agreement.

Attendance: Shawn Caudill, Kevin Donohue, Rebekah Epps, Azhar Swanson, Herman Farrell (Chair), Annie Weber (ex-officio), Sue Roberts, Mark Kornbluh, Jennifer Bird-Pollan.

Pre-Meeting Procedure:

Herman Farrell acted as facilitator of the proposal. The proposal from Dr. Roberts, dated September 11, 2018, was reviewed by the Graduate Council and revised to expand the scope of the change to not only cover cooperative education agreements with international institutional partners but US institutional partners, as well. Here is a portion of their report:

"Graduate Council unanimously endorsed the proposal to modify Senate Rule 4.2.5. The suggestion was made to make a minor modification ... **change** ... *education agreement with a non-US partner institution* ... **to** ... *education agreement with a US or international partner institution*. This is intended to accommodate agreements that are currently under development with domestic institutions."

At the SAASC meeting on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, Farrell introduced the proposal to the committee and asked for comment. There was general support for the proposal but a concern was raised regarding the academic standards that are involved in the cooperative education agreements. Annie Weber noted that the in-force international cooperative education agreements are available on the International Center website. Subsequently, Farrell corresponded with Roberts re the concerns and later reviewed the website and the template for international cooperative education agreements that include the academic criteria to be considered by the international center as these agreements are created, negotiated and eventually executed. Farrell shared a copy of a listing of the academic criteria with members of the committee prior to the meeting on October 17.

Discussion:

Kevin Donohue recorded notes of the meeting. See the meeting notes for 10/17/18 attached. Sue Roberts discussed the proposal noting that it was an attempt to align the Senate Rules with current practices involving so-called "3+2" or "3+1+1" programs where international students begin graduate school before completing their B.A. degree but subsequently earn that degree from their home country/partner institution and a UK master's degree.

As noted in the initial proposal, Dr. Roberts set forth the rationale for the proposed revision to SR 4.2.5.

“The [cooperative education agreement] model offers advantages to the students, in that that they can shave off one year of time/expense towards the two degrees, as well as earning a valuable credential from their home country/institution together with an advanced degree from a prestigious US research university. The model offers advantages to the partner institution in that they can market this “pathway” to their undergraduate students and potential undergraduate students as an attractive option. Most importantly, the model offers distinct advantages to UK in that it provides steady pipelines of highly motivated, well-prepared students for our graduate programs, since individual colleges and departments work closely with the partnering school abroad to define which preparatory courses would be most useful. In many cases, these 3+2 students can be strong candidates to stay on at UK for a PhD program. The model also fosters closer ties between UK faculty and colleagues abroad as they work together to evaluate applicants, articulate curricula, etc.”

Farrell noted that the proposal, as revised by the Grad Council, now included US partner institutions. It was noted by Annie Weber that there is no consistent process or set of standards in place for those domestic institution cooperative education agreements. Farrell suggested that the academic criteria that is now being considered in the creation of the international agreements should be incorporated into the SR 4.2.5. revision in order to ensure that a baseline academic standard is applied university-wide for all national and international cooperative education agreements. After further discussion the committee voted to amend the proposal with the incorporation of the academic criteria.

Vote:

The committee voted 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Post-meeting Procedure and Voting (via email):

Farrell distributed, via email, a draft version of the changes to SR 4.2.5 that included the Grad Council revision (US and Intl partnership agreements) and the SAASC amendment (addition of academic criteria) and after further discussion, an additional paragraph was included that involved: a review by the Provost’s Office to ensure that the criteria were being applied in the crafting of new international and national cooperative education agreements; and an annual report to the SAASC regarding the agreements. Farrell shared these revisions with Roberts and she raised concerns about redundancy and the potential burdensome nature of the review and reporting requirements. Farrell determined to postpone submission of the proposal to the Senate Council until these issues/concerns were discussed. Subsequently, Farrell and Roberts agreed that the review and reporting requirements should only apply to new agreements and that the reporting requirement would be less burdensome if it was every two years. Farrell then re-distributed, via email, the draft of the SR 4.2.5. changes (including the change to biennial reporting) and this final draft (attached) was voted on by the SAASC via email with the following results: In Favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstaining: 1; Not voting: 2.

The final draft of all proposed changes to S.R. 4.2.5 is attached.

Herman Farrell
Chair, SAASC

Herman Daniel Farrell III
University Research Professor
Associate Professor - Playwriting

SC recommends these changes be effective immediately. (SC meeting, November 5, 2018)

4.2.5 GRADUATE SCHOOL

Students ~~seeking~~ applying for admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School must hold a baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited institution of higher learning.

However, in the case of students applying for admission to the Graduate School under the auspices of an approved, in-force cooperative education agreement with a US or international partner institution, the requirement of having a completed baccalaureate degree may be temporarily waived for up to 12 months from the date of enrollment, or the number of months stated in the cooperative agreement; no graduate degree will be awarded until a bachelor's degree from a fully accredited institution of higher learning has been awarded. Such cooperative education agreements shall consider the following criteria regarding the potential benefit for UK and the US or international partner institution: congruence with the academic, research, service priorities, and plans of the University of Kentucky as well as the Department and College proposing the agreement; congruence with the University of Kentucky's mission; anticipated benefits to students, faculty members, the University of Kentucky, and university stakeholders; evidence of institutional quality including, for example, reputation, international/national ranking, and accreditation status.

The Provost's Office shall ensure that approval procedures for cooperative education agreements, including approval by the faculty of the affected degree program(s), are created, maintained, and published in accordance with the considerations listed above. Biennially, a representative from the Provost's Office shall prepare a report to the Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) on new cooperative education agreements and how they are in compliance with the criteria identified in this section of the Senate Rules.

All applicants for admission to a graduate degree program must have an undergraduate grade point standing of at least 2.75, and a graduate grade point standing (if applicable) of at least 3.0 on a basis of 4.0. Furthermore, all applicants must submit scores on the verbal, quantitative and analytical portions of the aptitude section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). This rule may be waived in individual cases upon recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies in the individual department or program. However, in cases where waivers are granted, the GRE scores must be submitted before the end of the first semester of graduate study. The advanced portion of the GRE may be required by individual programs. A student with a grade point average of less than 2.75, or a graduate of a non-accredited institution, may be admitted or provisionally admitted, only after the (GRE) and other evidence acceptable to the program and the Dean of the Graduate School is submitted indicating that the student is capable of doing satisfactory graduate work. Individual programs may establish higher requirements. [US: 10/12/98]

A graduate program faculty may petition the Graduate Council to allow its applicants to substitute another standardized exam for the GRE. A graduate program faculty may also petition the Graduate Council to exempt all of its applicants from the requirement to submit GRE scores; for such a petition to be successful, the program must show that the GRE is not useful in its admissions process. Either type of petition must be transmitted by the Dean of the College in which the program resides to the Graduate Council. The Graduate School will continue to require GRE scores for all Graduate School fellowship applications.

September 11th, 2018

Dear Sheila,

The UK International Center has been working with the Graduate School and various deans (notably, Public Health, Engineering, Gatton, A&S, thus far) to develop and implement a new cooperative education model with key partner universities abroad. This model, which most of our peer institutions currently have in place, involves high-achieving students completing three years of coursework towards their bachelor's degrees at an overseas partner institution and then coming the UK for two years of graduate study. During their first year of graduate study at UK, they typically are simultaneously completing any outstanding requirements for their bachelor's degree from the partner institution. In many higher education systems abroad, the majority of coursework is completed in three years, with the fourth year being dedicated to senior thesis research or other capstone experiences, and so this model can enable students to finish up their bachelor's degree while also being enrolled as full-time master's degree students here at UK.

Students who successfully complete these so-called "3+2" or "3+1+1" programs end up with a bachelor's degree from the partner institution and a UK master's degree. The model offers advantages to the students, in that that they can shave off one year of time/expense towards the two degrees, as well as earning a valuable credential from their home country/institution together with an advanced degree from a prestigious US research university. The model offers advantages to the partner institution in that they can market this "pathway" to their undergraduate students and potential undergraduate students as an attractive option. Most importantly, the model offers distinct advantages to UK in that it provides steady pipelines of highly motivated, well-prepared students for our graduate programs, since individual colleges and departments work closely with the partnering school abroad to define which preparatory courses would be most useful. In many cases, these 3+2 students can be strong candidates to stay on at UK for a PhD program. The model also fosters closer ties between UK faculty and colleagues abroad as they work together to evaluate applicants, articulate curricula, etc.

As you know, the University Senate Rules (4.2.5, in particular) currently stipulate that "students seeking admission to the University of Kentucky must hold a baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited institution of higher learning." Students coming to UK under the cooperative education model described above would be admitted to UK graduate programs before completing their baccalaureate degrees, and then would be required to

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certify completion of their baccalaureate degrees prior to the start of their second year of graduate studies here. There is some precedence for this, in the University Scholars Programs (USPs) currently in effect. However, one significant difference between this proposed model and the USP model is that there will be no reduction in the number of graduate credits required for the UK degree and no recognition of credits earned at the partner institution towards the UK degree. In fact, participating students will be subject to all of the standard admissions and degree requirements as established by the Graduate School and by the individual colleges/departments administering the degrees. The only difference will be in the timing of certification of the baccalaureate degree. Currently, the Graduate School requires students to certify the baccalaureate prior to registering for their second semester of graduate study at UK; we are asking that students in these programs, particularly, be required to certify completion of the baccalaureate degree prior to starting their second year of graduate study at UK.

After consulting with the Graduate School, UK Legal Counsel, College Deans, and Senate Chairperson Dr. Jennifer Bird-Pollan, UK International Center would like to propose a minor revision the admissions policy stipulated in Senate Rule 4.2.5 “Graduate School” in order to allow adoption of this cooperative education model. Specifically, we propose the following revision (in bold type below) for consideration by the University Senate:

4.2.5 Graduate School:

Students seeking admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School must hold a baccalaureate degree from a fully accredited institution of higher learning. **However, in the case of students applying for admission to the Graduate School under the auspices of an approved, currently in-force cooperative education agreement with a non-U.S. partner institution, the requirement of having a completed baccalaureate degree may be waived.** All applicants for admission to a graduate degree program must have an undergraduate grade point standing of at least 2.75, and a graduate grade point standing (if applicable) of at least 3.0 on a basis of 4.0. Furthermore, all applicants must submit scores on the verbal, quantitative and analytical portions of the aptitude section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). This rule may be waived in individual cases upon recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies in the individual department or program. However, in cases where waivers are granted, the GRE scores must be submitted before the end of the first semester of graduate study. The advanced portion of the GRE may be required by individual programs. A student with a grade point average of less than 2.75, or a graduate of a non-accredited institution, may be admitted or provisionally admitted, only after the (GRE) and other evidence acceptable to the program and the Dean of the Graduate School is submitted indicating that the student is capable of doing satisfactory graduate work. Individual programs may establish higher requirements. [US: 10/12/98]

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This proposed rule revision and the cooperative education model it enables have the express support of Deans of A&S, Engineering, Public Health, and the Graduate School, among others. Should the revision be approved, Dean Brian Jackson will work to revise the Graduate School Bulletin to stipulate specific implementation processes and timelines for certification of the earned baccalaureate and any other relevant details.

Thank you for your consideration and the consideration of the University Senate for this proposed revision. Please let me know if you have any questions at all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S M Roberts".

Susan M. Roberts
Associate Provost for Internationalization
Professor of Geography

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Kornbluh, Mark

Fri 8/31, 10:46 AM

Dear Sue,

Thank you so much for your hard work in resolving this. A&S is fully supportive of this proposal. As you know, we have been working to develop 3+2 programs with international universities, particularly in China, and especially in our sciences. In many countries, most of the course work for a major is largely finished in three years, with a fourth year devoted to a thesis. These students are ready to take Masters level classes after three years. For our science departments, this will provide an important revenue stream that will help to subsidize our graduate programs in general. This is part of our strategy under 'Our Path forward.'

In the past, such programs have been often called 3+1+1, with the students coming to the US as non-degree students for the first year and then enrolling in the master's program after the international university grants the BS. Changes in immigration laws and enforcement make it much more difficult to recruit students for a 3+1+1. Your proposal is an excellent solution for this problem.

Thank you,

Mark

Mark Lawrence Kornbluh | Dean College of Arts and Sciences
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Arnett, Donna

Fri 8/31, 5:29 PM

Roberts, Susan

Inbox

Dear Dr. Roberts,

I am in full support of the proposal to adjust University Senate Rule 4.2.5 regarding admission of students who have not yet completed bachelor's degrees to master's degree programs at the University of Kentucky. The College of Public Health shares the growing interest in "3+2" programs—courses of study that entail students beginning their undergraduate degrees at institutions outside the United States, then coming to UK in their final undergraduate year to complete their undergraduate degrees and begin studies for a master's degree.

The College of Public Health is currently home to two master's degree programs—the Master of Public Health and the Master of Health Administration. Allowing highly-qualified international students to enter UK via 3+2 programs would strengthen overall recruitment for the University, and potentially for our College.

Sincerely,

Donna K. Arnett
Dean
University of Kentucky College of Public Health

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Jackson, Brian

Fri 8/31, 8:10 PM

Good evening Sue:

The Graduate School fully supports the proposed modification to Senate Rule 4.2.5. This change will provide an opportunity to significantly increase enrollment of academically strong international students in many of our graduate programs.

Thanks so much for taking the lead on this; the Graduate School stands by to enthusiastically assist as needed.

Very best,

Brian

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