Committee members in attendance: David Benson, Kelly Berkson, Greg Burg, Estela Gavosto, Pete Henry, Rick Ingram, Stephen Sanders, and Holly Storkel
Others in attendance: Jessica Beeson, Shelly Cline, Ann Cudd, Stephen Dickey, Allan Hanson, Karen Ledom, Kim McNeley, Becca Peterson, Barbara Romzek, Anne Sawyer, Joe Steinmetz, Bill Tsutsui, and Nina Vyatkina

The meeting was called to order by Dean Steinmetz at 4:04 PM

Minutes
A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 10, 2009 minutes of the College Academic Council as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies & Advising (CUSA)
(Greg Madden, Chair, reporting)
- Greg Madden read a prepared statement (see Addendum 1) regarding the recommendation from the CUSA for approval of the proposal to add a second non-major degree track to the existing BGS degree AND allow all departments in CLAS to enforce admissions criteria to their major. The proposal was discussed at length and members of the CUSA who were present answered the CAC members’ questions. The CUSA’s recommendation for the adoption of this proposal (as a package) was endorsed unanimously by a vote of the CAC. It was noted that appropriate edits would be made to clarify course category listings. It was also noted that adoption of this proposal will require a vote from the College Assembly because it adds a degree track. **A meeting of the College Assembly will therefore be convened on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 4:00 PM in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union.**
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation from the CUSA for curricular changes to the following courses:
  - AAAS 102, BIOL 215, ENGL 362, ENGL 525, ENGL 563, ENGL 564, ENGL 626, ENGL 627, ENGL 640, ENGL 641, ENGL 646, ENGL 648, ENGL 650, ENGL 655, ENGL 658, ENGL 660, ENGL 664, ENGL 668, GINS 600, GINS 601, GINS 602, GINS 603, GINS 612, GINS 613, GINS 614, GINS 670, GINS 673, HIST 455, HIST 510, HWC 477, HEBR 210, HEBR 220, HEBR 320, HEBR 350, JWSH 300, JWSH 600, PSYC 688, PSYC 697, REL 477, REL 602, SPAN 441, SPAN 442. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation from the CUSA for approval of the following:
  - Non-Western Culture Status for: AAAS 102, HIST 605, MUSC 139/339
  - Deletion of Principal Course Status for: JWSH 572
  - Principal Course Status Change SC: GEOG 150
The motion passed unanimously.
- A Report of Action was received regarding the following:
  - Change to Existing Jewish Studies Minor

Report of the Committee on Graduate Studies (CGS)
(Allan Hanson, Chair, reporting)
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation from the CGS for curricular changes to the following courses:
  - New Courses: FMS 714, FMS 715, FMS 716, FMS 875, GINS 870, PUAD 854, REL 510, REL 527, REL 528
  - Course Deletion: TH&F 876
The motion was approved unanimously, pending clerical corrections.
A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation from the CGS for the following program changes: Film and Media Studies M.A., Film and Media Studies Ph.D., Theatre M.A., Theatre Ph.D.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Dean Steinmetz at 4:55 PM.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

❖ College Assembly: Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 4:00 PM, Alderson Auditorium (Kansas Union)  
❖ College Academic Council: Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 4:00 PM, 210 Strong Hall

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Anne Sawyer.

Addendum 1 – March 10, 2009 Minutes of the College Academic Council

(Prepared and presented by Greg Madden, CUSA chair)

At the beginning of the fall semester, CUSA was asked to consider interrelated issues:

❖ There appears to be a demand for offering a distance-education, liberal-arts, non-major BGS degree to students graduating from Kansas community colleges who are unable to move to Lawrence.

❖ There also is some demand for offering a liberal-arts, non-major BGS degrees to students attending the Edwards campus who have a limited number of majors from which to choose.

❖ A seemingly unrelated issue that became related as discussions within CUSA continued is that some KU students are unable to gain admission to their desired major because of major admissions criteria imposed by six departments.

❖ Some of these students struggle to find a new major that meets their needs and within which they can obtain a graduating GPA ($\geq 2.0$ in junior/senior level coursework). For example, a number of students have gone into Economics, a degree in which they are unable to earn a graduating GPA. Economics, not able to impose a major-admission criterion, increased the rigor of their major course of study.

❖ Students who learn that they will be unable to pursue the major of their choice, sometimes do so late in the game. Pursuing a different major decreases their probability of graduating in four years. There is some concern that this will become a more acute issue when tuition compact students are trying to graduate but cannot.

❖ Rather than recommending that these admissions criteria be revoked, CUSA believes there is merit in allowing all departments in the college to impose major admission criteria. As you are well aware, other CLAS departments have expressed an interest in doing so.

❖ A primary merit is that selective admissions criteria allow the department to clearly communicate to students the skills necessary to succeed in the major, and the department’s minimum standards of achievement in the core classes in which these skills are taught.

❖ As implied earlier, admissions criteria will reduce the number of cases that CUSA considers each year where a student is in his/her fourth or fifth year and is in a major where they are unlikely to be able to achieve a graduating GPA. The student would never have been allowed to get themselves into this situation had they been required to meet an admissions criterion.
One might reasonable ask if KU should be in the business of offering non-major degrees to students who cannot meet a major admissions criterion. CUSA believes that we should offer these students the opportunity to obtain a non-major BGS degree as long as that degree has adequate academic rigor. As you will see by studying Component 1 of our proposal, we propose to replace the major with coursework in world language and culture, natural sciences and math, and a breadth requirement that will ensure that students receive broad training in the liberal arts and sciences.

We have attempted to craft the non-major BGS degree so that it meets the goals of general education at KU.

- For example, the standard principal course requirements meet Goal 1 (enhance research, critical thinking, and application skills).
- The breadth, world culture/language, and natural science and math requirements address Goal 2 (acquire a breadth of knowledge and the ability to integrate across areas of study) and Goals 3 & 4 (reading, writing, numeracy, and communications skills, and knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity).

CUSA offers this proposal as a two-component package which was approved as a package and must be considered by CAC as a package. Allowing other majors to impose admissions criteria will, we believe, improve the preparation of our students and will aid them in identifying a major in which they are likely to succeed and graduate in a timely fashion. However, imposing these criteria will increase the time to graduation of students who meet KU graduation GPA requirements but cannot gain admission to their first and possibly even their second desired major. If KU is to have a graduating GPA requirement of 2.0, then we must offer these students a BGS degree that recognizes the broad training they have received in the liberal arts and sciences.