The University of Kansas
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES & ADVISING
AGENDA

March 27, 2012, 11:00AM
STRONG HALL – ROOM 210

I. Approval of CUSA Minutes from March 13, 2012

II. Chair’s Report

III. Dean’s Office Report

IV. CLA&S Student Academic Services Report

V. Subcommittee Chair Reports
   A. Advising & Awards
   B. Curricular Changes/Degree Requirements
   C. Academic Standards Report

VI. Old Business
Discussion of degree specific general education requirements in the College

Additional data regarding foreign language and math requirements
The committee met on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 210 Strong Hall. The following were present: Bradley, Burright, Childers, Corbeill, Crosby, Fischer, Goldstein, Gray, Hurst, Jackson, Jelks, Ledom, Neidert, Pye, Vanchena

**MINUTES** A motion was made to approve the February 28, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**CHAIR’S REPORT** Professor Fischer was invited to attend a meeting with the faculty from the foreign language department last Thursday. He discussed the issues CUSA is facing and how the process was working and what the committee was looking for from the foreign language department. He invited any interested faculty to attend a CUSA meeting.

**DEAN’S OFFICE REPORT** Associate Dean Goldstein met with Dean Anderson and Chris Haufler to obtain more clarity on the ongoing process for the general education requirements.

He asked for clarification on how many courses will be required in each of the core goal areas by the university and what we could require for a BA degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

- Build core skills of critical thinking and quantitative literacy - 1 in 1, or 1 in each of the areas required by the university;
- Strengthen written and oral communication - 3 courses;
- Develop a background of knowledge across fundamental areas of study (breadth) - 3-4 courses;
- Respect human diversity and expand cultural understanding and global awareness - 2 courses;
- Practice social responsibility and demonstrate ethical behavior - 1-2 courses;
- Gain the ability to integrate knowledge across and think creatively - 1 course.

The core requirements add up to 42 or 45 hours. They are still discussing social responsibility to determine if it should be 1 or 2 courses so the total hours may be more.

**CLA&S STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES REPORT** Ms. Ledom reported that her office is gearing up for main advising which is immediately after spring break. The Student Academic Services office continues testing the DPR and will help departments with their new DPR reports.

**SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

A. ADVISING & AWARDS

Professor Gray reported that the call for applications for awards has gone out. They will begin reviewing the submissions the week of March 26th and the rankings of the awards should be ready by April 13th.

B. CURRICULAR CHANGES/DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Ledom presented the following:

1. **Curricular Changes for Approval:**
   
   NEW COURSES APPROVED: PSYC 580
   CHANGES APPROVED: FMS 311, FMS 312, LING 438
   DELETIONS:

   Curricular Changes Motion to File: NONE

2. **Degree Requirements for Approval:**
a. Changes to Existing BA, BGS in Political Sciences
b. Changes to Existing BFA Visual Art-Textiles/Fiber Option

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS
   No report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS
Standing discussion of general education requirements.
The foreign language survey results were distributed to the committee for discussion. What are our expectations of someone that graduates with a BA? Should they be able to read another language, should they be able to speak another language, write in another language? As a committee, what are we striving to achieve with our foreign language requirement?

The committee also discussed a comparisons report of peer institutions, which included: North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, University of Florida, Michigan State University, The University of Iowa, University of Colorado-Boulder, Indiana University, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Oregon and SUNY-Buffalo. Most of our peer institutions included foreign language requirements for admission. A few schools strongly encouraged students to have foreign language proficiency for admission and explained that they would be at an extreme disadvantage if they did not have foreign language proficiency.

The committee felt it was important to require minimum academic standards before students are admitted. The committee asked that Ms. Bridget Bradley cull data to try to determine the foreign language proficiency of incoming freshman and transfer students have when admitted to the University of Kansas.

A lengthy discussion ensued and many options were discussed.

An informal consensus/tentative proposal was to propose a 3 semester requirement with the 4th level course fulfilling the breadth of knowledge. Several options and different combinations were discussed, including:

- 4th semester foreign language requirement
- Combination foreign language/world culture
- Combination foreign language/ international experience using the last semester to build international experience
- 4 semester of foreign language or 3 semesters and student abroad experience

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.