



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, President
RE: President's Response to Senate Actions
DATE: December 7, 2022

Following is my response to the actions of the Faculty Senate as represented in the minutes of the meeting on November 11, 2022, which were approved electronically on November 18, 2022. All program approvals are made contingent upon the department's commitment to staff the changes out of existing internal funds. Note that Section 3.6.2 of the Board of Regents Policy Manual states, inter alia: "The termination of educational programs, degrees, or majors shall be submitted to the Chancellor for review and recommendation for action by the Board of Regents." So, all program, degree, and major terminations (as well as additions) need to be approved by the Board. Our requests should include the rationale and the plan for addressing the needs of existing students.

Committee I: Undergraduate Programs Committee (Kim Green, Chair)

Action Items:

- A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
 - 1) Department of Natural Sciences
 - a) GEOG - 3100 - Introduction to Science Pedagogy
Request: Add
 - b) GEOL - 3100 - Introduction to Science Pedagogy
Request: Add
 - c) PHYS - 3100 - Introduction to Science Pedagogy
Request: Add

The three courses with the title Introduction to Science Pedagogy will be voted on as a block. This is a one-hour course required for students hired as teaching assistants in the Geography, Geology, and Physics introductory lab courses. Therefore, this is one course cross-listed with those prefixes. Students in these areas have open elective hours so that this requirement will fit into the existing total credit hours for their programs. The course includes general training on instructional techniques as well as professional development activities related to teaching and TA duties.

The 3100 courses were voted on as a block. Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion.

- d) BIOL - 4411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add
- e) CHEM - 4411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add
- f) GEOG - 4411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add
- g) GEOL - 4411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add

The four courses for Scientific Communication will be voted on as a block. These are all the same course being cross-listed with the four prefixes shown here. Additionally, at the Senate's October meeting this course with the Physics prefix was already approved. These additional prefixes have caught up in Curriculog and reached us now. This is the course oriented toward science majors who are interested in becoming teachers. It is also part of the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) pathway associated with a Master's in Applied Teaching (MAT). Therefore, these four courses also have a 5000-level listing and are coming up on the agenda in a few minutes from the Graduate Programs Committee.

The 4411 courses were voted on as a block. Item approved with 38 in favor, 1 objection, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 2) Department of Education
 - a) Nexus in Digital Entertainment, Esports, and Game Development
Request: Add

This is one of the 60-hour, two-year degrees that provide a shorter, focused path to developing skills, particularly for high-demand, growth areas. This program in Digital Entertainment and Esports will allow students to earn both the Nexus and a Georgia Film Academy (GFA) Certification. The 18 hours that are focused in the field, including the required experiential learning part of the program, are Georgia Film Academy offerings. This Esports Nexus has synergies with several other degrees on campus including Computing, Interdisciplinary Studies, Marketing, Mass Communication, and Sport Management.

This is the fourth Nexus program presented for Senate approval, and the second one this school year. At our September meeting, there was a question about how long these have existed. The Nexus was established by the University System in 2018. As related information, the state of Georgia is ranked by a noted economic development publication as first in workforce development (for thirteen consecutive years) and competitive labor environment due, in part, to fast upskilling approaches similar to this.

Discussion occurred as to why the specific company Skillsoft is mentioned in the proposal. This company has been identified by the Georgia Film Consortium as a partner: the list is not exclusive.

Item approved with 37 in favor, 2 objections, and 2 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

- b) Sport Management, B.S.
Request: Revise Program

This proposal creates an accelerated bachelors to masters pathway. There are four courses from which students can select 12 hours to count toward both the B.S. and the M.S. degrees.

Item approved with 39 in favor and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

Committee II: Graduate Programs Committee (Patrick Hadley, Chair)

Action Items:

- A) College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
 - 1) Department of English, Film, Languages, and Performing Arts
 - a) English, M.A.
Request: Modify

The foreign language requirement will be replaced with an embedded global studies requirement of one course in significant content in global, postcolonial, African, or Native American content.

Item approved with 36 in favor, 1 objection, and 3 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

- b) English, M.A.
Request: Modify

This modification deletes the GRE requirement for admission to program. This is following best practices in the industry. Requiring the GRE presents an equity issue as the fee hurts students from lower income, rural, military, and first-generation families. Current admissions requirements are sufficient.

Item approved with 38 in favor, 1 objection, and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 2) Department of Natural Sciences
 - a) BIOL - 5411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add
 - b) CHEM - 5411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add
 - c) GEOG - 5411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add
 - d) GEOL - 5411 - Scientific Communication
Request: Add

Allows for an advanced credential in an expedited fashion; previous courses were approved at the last Faculty Senate meeting. Accelerated bachelor to masters (Master of Arts in Teaching).

The 5411 courses were voted on as a block. Item approved with 39 in favor and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- B) College of Education
 - 1) Department of Leadership, Research, and School Improvement
 - a) School Improvement, Ed.D.
Request: Modify

Modifies admissions requirements: removes letters of recommendation, and require in resume or vita contact information for three professional references. It was found that letters of recommendation are not a critical source in application reviews.

Item approved with 37 in favor and 3 abstentions.

I accept this motion.

- B) Graduate Catalog 2022- 2023
 - 1) Graduate Course Loads (Figure 2)
Request: Modify

This modification changes the definition to 6 credit hours for fulltime status, down from 9 credits; and half-time status to 3 credit hours, down from 5 credits in graduate course load. This change is beneficial because it allows for federal aid even if enrolled in a single course.

Item approved with 39 in favor and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

- 2) The University Year and Definition of a Credit Hour (Figure 3)
Request: Add

This policy defines both the university year and a credit hour: designed to mirror similar language in the undergraduate catalog.

Item approved unanimously.

I accept this motion with edits to reflect the USG policy wording (see Figure 3 below).

Committee III: Academic Policies Committee (Brandy Chambless, Chair)

Action Item: (Figure 4)

- A) Policy Statement Regarding Transfer Credit
Request: Revise

This policy revision adds a statement regarding transfer credit. This is needed because there is not a current transfer policy from one course level to another at this time.

Item approved with 39 in favor and 1 abstention.

I accept this motion.

Figure 3

APPROVED NEW POLICY (modification added in red)

The University Year and Definition of a Credit Hour

The University is organized on the semester system. There are two semesters (fall and spring) of approximately 15 weeks of **instructional time**, two eight-week sessions concurrent with each fall and spring semester, a three-week term in May, and summer semesters of approximately four and eight weeks.

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. Prior Learning or Work Experience).