



**Educational Policies Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, 24 January 2022**
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Leadership present: Chair Pamela E. Grimm; Secretaries Therese E. Tillett, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Aimee J. Bell, Christa N. Ord

Administrators present: Senior Associate Provost & Graduate Studies Dean Manfred H. van Dulmen; Deans Mark S. Mistur, Christina L. Bloebaum

Faculty present: Professors Vinay K. Cheruvu, Edward Dauterich, Karen Gracy; Associate Professors Brian R. Barber, Vanessa J. Earp, Duane J. Ehredt, Derek Kingsley, Bethany G. Lanese, Denise M. McEnroe-Petitte, Gabriella Paar-Jakli, Helen Piontkivska, Jonathan F. Swoboda; Assistant Professors Jo A. Dowell, Cat E. Goodall, Eric S. Kildow, Lameck M. Onsarigo, Christopher Rowan; Associate Lecturers Mary F. Kutchin, Shelley K. Marshall

Faculty not present: Professor Robert D. Hisrich; Associate Professors Geoffrey Steinberg, Brett D. Tippey, Michael R. Fisch

Guests: Sonia Alemagno, Donna Alexander, Susan Augustine, Candace Bowen, Marie Bukowski, Sloane Burgess, Jessica Cervenak, Alicia Crowe, Emmanuel Dechenaux, Susan Emens, Enrico Gandolfi, James Hannon, Eric Jefferis, Versie Johnson-Mallard, Cheryl Ann Lambert, Jamie McCartney, Emily Metzgar, Eboni Pringle, Amy Reynolds, Matthew Rollyson, Hollie Simpson, Alison Smith, Julia Stoll, Deirdre Warren, Lana Whitehead, Cathy Zingrone

Chair Pamela E. Grimm called the meeting to order at 3:20p.m., on Monday, 24 January 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Meeting on 6 December 2021

Assistant Professor Dowell made a motion to approve, and Associate Lecturer Marshall seconded the motion.

Without questions or comments, the item passed unanimously.

II. Academic Unit Proposal Review

A. Action Item

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Sociology

1. Revise name to Department of Sociology and Criminology

III. Policy Proposal Review

Dean Warren stated that the proposal is changing the name of the Department of Sociology to the Department of Sociology and Criminology. The change is much more inclusive of the programs, faculty, faculty research and the students within the department. It will also be more apparent for students looking for criminology degrees.

Associate Professor McEnroe-Petitte motioned to approve, and Assistant Professor Eric S. Kildow seconded.

With no questions, the item passed unanimously.

A. Action Item

Office of Admissions

1. Admission of Graduate Students: Revise policy to align with policies at other Ohio public institutions, emphasize holistic review of applications and expand access to graduate programs

Interim VP of Enrollment, Lana Whitehead, explained that the changes are to update name changes from the division of graduate studies to the admissions office. The admission section has been adjusted slightly to align with other Ohio university's minimum GPA requirement of a 2.75. The transcript section required an official transcript from any institution where eight or more hours were attempted. This will be changed to degree conferral transcripts. The policy has been adjusted to a holistic review since so many programs are waving their GRE, GMAT requirement due to the pandemic. The policy also emphasizes we are an access institution and play an important role in making sure graduate programs are open to applicants who desire to pursue them. Statements have been added about holistic review and offer graduate assistantships to applicants that may not have had a great UG GPA, but have earned a graduate degree from an accredited institution. The graduate degree would make them eligible for regular admission, an assistantship or have earned nine or more graduate credits at Kent State with a 3.0 GPA. If a test score is required by the program, students have other options, such as:

- Scored in the 50%
- Earned a 3.0 overall GPA in their undergraduate major or courses related to the academic program to which the applicant has applied
- Earned a 3.0 overall GPA in the last 60 credit hours of complete undergraduate courses
- Other compelling evidence as determined by the academic program (i.e., outstanding performance in their field)

A statement was added about test scores not being required, but that graduate programs may require a score as part of its admissions criteria. Additional changes include cleaning up and updating language.

Therese asked what the effective date will be for the admission changes.

Lana stated that they would like it to begin and reflect in the catalog in spring 2023.

Therese stated that Curriculum Services would contact every graduate program area to ensure they want to change their minimum GPA from a 3.0 to a 2.75. Once they have agreed, the catalog will be updated.

Senior Associate Provost van Dulmen explained that the changes proposed reflect national trends. Kent's requirements are less flexible than some big 10 schools, so some students cannot be admitted unconditionally. This effects a number of applicants.

Professor Dauterich motioned to approve, and Associate Lecturer Marshall seconded the motion.

Dean Mistur asked if it is possible to admit students unconditionally and to change their plan of study to reflect the courses they need to better prepare for the program.

Lana said that the way conditionally admission is currently is to reflect the need to complete courses in this order. She believes it would be welcomed to admit the student unconditionally and add those courses to the plan of study. If it is a different circumstance where good academic performance is needing to be proved, the students should be admitted with a condition. That is a condition into the academic program and not just in their plan of study.

Senior Associate Provost van Dulmen added that this is where institutions like Ohio State have developed a bridge program where they can admit students fully into a program until they are ready to go into their program of study.

Chair Grimm asked if Kent is working on something like Ohio State's bridge program.

Senior Associate Provost van Dulmen said that is something that will be discussed.

An EPC member asked if there any other data driven reasons (relative to enrollment) that are in support of the change in GPA requirements from 3.0 to 2.75.

Lana explained that the individual colleges/programs were asked to review their predictive measures. Test scores were reviewed to see if they were predictive. The GPA requirement being among those things, there was no evidence suggesting that the 3.0 should be maintained. Also, they did not want to lose students to other institutions. They also wanted the ability to award the assistantships to students that would be exceptional in the program, but may not have had a good undergraduate career. There is a lot of evidence nationally that this is where academic programs are going to review students holistically. The restrictive measures were not necessarily predictors of success.

Without further questions, comments or concerns, the item passed unanimously.

IV. Program Proposal Review

A. Action Items

College of Education, Health and Human Services

School of Health Sciences

1. Speech Pathology and Audiology - Minor: Establish minor on Kent Campus

Associate Professor Burgess stated that the pathology and audiology fields are growing. The minor has six core courses. Students who complete the minor and are interested in pursuing a masters in speech pathology they would be well prepared. They would have two more classes to take to meet the prerequisites for graduate school. Two of the courses that are included in the

minor require students being admitted to the professional phase. For those to courses, the requirement would be waved.

Dean Mistur asked about prerequisites for the minor that students in other disciplines need for the minor.

Associate Professor Burgess said the stumbling block appears, because students cannot get practice as a speech pathologist unless they have a master's degree. They also cannot get a master's degree unless they have this core course curriculum in speech pathology and audiology. The minor that was proposed would not move them in the direction of the significant portion of the required course work. The department realizes it is a heavy minor and do not expect a ton of students to take it initially.

Associate Lecturer Marshall made a motion to approve, and Assistant Professor Dowell seconded.

With no further questions, comments or concerns, the item passed unanimously.

College of Public Health

1. Health Technologies and Informatics - Minor: Establish minor fully online and on Kent Campus

Professor Jefferis said that this was proposed in 2021, but was withdrawn to collaborate more with the regional campuses. They have gathered feedback from Dr. Shaddock, regional deans and faculty. The proposal was revised based on the feedback. The minor will be 100% online and available to all Kent State students. There is a need for health informatics entry workers in Ohio hospitals and they are hoping to address that. It is a 15-credit hour minor with existing courses. Public Health is collaborating with four other divisions—CCI, EHHS, EMAT and ATS.

Assistant Professor Gandolfi added that there are students with technology experience, but need the public health knowledge. Also, students with public health experience that need technology knowledge.

Professor Cheruvu motioned to approve the item, and Associate Lecturer Marshall seconded.

The item passed unanimously.

B. Discussion Items

College of Communication and Information

School of Journalism and Media

1. Journalism Education - M.A.: Program development plan to establish new major

Director of the school, Emily Metzgar, stated that the proposal is to elevate a master's concentration into a standalone master's degree. This concentration has been offered for 14 years and helps teachers teach high school journalism and advising student media. This will be the only degree of its kind in the country. Confidence in American institutions continues to decline, but high school students still demonstrate interest. The current students in the minor are high school journalism teachers, English teachers, media advisers, media professionals and others.

Potential students are teachers with schools that have some kind of student media and professional journalists seeking to transition to teaching in a post-secondary space. The program is entirely online, so most of the students are not local. The learning outcomes are very specific to helping teachers apply information, understand professional ethical principles and standards, understand the contemporary media environment, advise about audience needs and interests and plan and implement research-based instruction. The department does not anticipate additional costs.

An EPC member asked if social media and privacy information was embedded in the program.

Emily explained that social media and privacy are part of all of the curriculum. There is a limited amount of security-based courses offered online, but they have worked to include related courses from across campus.

Therese asked if this concentration is replacing the Media and Journalism program.

Emily said yes, but they are planning to inactivate the current M.A. in Media and Journalism at the School of Media and Journalism. This degree will be one of the two that replaces it. The other one is a proposal that is being worked on with the School of Communication that is not quite ready. They are planning to combine the two M.A. programs. When that combination has been approved and propagated, then the Media and Journalism M.A. will be inactivated.

Chair Grimm asked if the faculty teaching in the current program would transition into the new program.

Emily said, yes.

V. Course Proposal Review

A. University Requirements Curriculum Committee – Action Items

Diversity—Global Requirement

1. ARTH 22020 Art of Africa, Oceania and the Americas

2. ARTH 22021 Art History: African Art

Dean Smith stated that URCC received from Art History the 22020 course for revision. It is a Global Diversity course and a Kent Core course. The proposal is to turn the course into “Art of Africa” only and keep it as diversity and Kent Core status. The reason for removing “Oceania and the Americas” is that it is an old school view of art history. Africa, Oceania and Americas art history must be taught separately due to the specifics of each. The number also needed to change to make it distinctive and keep it clear from a similar course in Africana Studies. The course remains as Global Diversity and Kent Core.

Professor Swoboda motioned to approve, and Assistant Professor Kildow seconded the motion.

Without any further questions, the item passed unanimously.

With no further comments or questions, Chair Pamela E. Grimm closed the meeting at 4:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa N. Ord

Christa N. Ord
Administrative Secretary
Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost