

Faculty Agenda Item

Date: March 6, 2019

Submitted by: Dr. Tom Hickman, School of Business – Ext. 1308

Subject: EN Correlate for School of Business

Current Situation: School of Business - Written Communications Assessment

The School of Business (SOBU) has identified written communications as an area in need of improvement. This conclusion was arrived at after an analysis of the assessment data that revealed the following:

Written Communications is Student Learning Outcome 2b in the School of Business. In 2013, the SOBU adopted an Artificial Intelligence system (WriteExperience) to assess written communications. It is expected that at least 70% of students will meet expectations in each of the six rubric assessment areas. Students have consistently failed to meet expectations in three of these areas (Content & Development, Organization, and Mechanics & Conventions).

Addressing the Problem with Cooperation from the English Department

The SOBU Curriculum Committee identified a series of six courses offered by the Washburn University English Department as having a focus on communications. Accordingly, a SOBU Curriculum Committee member (Jennifer Ball) met with the Chair of the English Department (Vanessa Steinroetter) for two reasons:

1. To determine if each of the six courses contained an intensive writing component.
2. To determine the willingness of the English Department to support a correlate that would require approximately 50 SOBU students per semester to enroll and pass one of the six courses. Importantly, this is not an increase of 50 students per semester since it is common for SOBU students to take one of these courses as partial fulfillment of their Humanities general education requirement.

The English Department indicated that each of the courses did contain an intensive writing component and that they would be supportive of the correlate. Further, the English Department advised that a course at another university with a similar course title would also be writing intensive at that university. As a result, students will likely be able to meet the requirements of this correlate through a transfer of credits from another university with a similar course title.

Since students entering Washburn during the Fall 2019 semester are not required to take one of these courses their first semester, it is expected that there will be a more gradual increase in demand for these six courses from SOBU students. Nevertheless, the English Department has indicated that additional sections of courses could be added if the demand dictates that course of action.

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Adoption of New School of Business Correlate – Effective Fall 2019

Effective Fall 2019, the SOBU faculty has voted to approve a proposal that requires students to pass a writing intensive course with the grade of C or higher. The list of these six courses that are each designated as a Humanities General Education course with a focus on Communications is as follows:

EN103 Academic Reading and Research
EN131 Understanding Short Fiction
EN145 Shakespeare Afterlives
EN207 Beginning Nonfiction Writing
EN208 Professional Writing
EN209 Beginning Fiction Writing

The 100 level courses have no prerequisites while the 200 level courses each have EN101 or EN102 listed as a prerequisite.

School of Business – Humanities General Education Requirement

The SOBU requires that students complete a minimum of nine credit hours with a grade of C or higher in courses that are designated as Humanities – General Education. In addition to completing one of the six writing intensive courses, SOBU students are required to take CN 150 – Public Speaking. The remaining three credit hours of Humanities – General Education must be designated as Art, Music, or Theater.