

Minutes  
Academic Affairs Committee  
Board of Trustees  
September 13, 2011

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met in Room A, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor Patterson Office Tower at 10:00 a.m. on September 13. Keith Gannon called the meeting to order. The following members were in attendance: Charles Sachatello and Barbara Young.

Mr. Gannon distributed the minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting and asked for any corrections or additions. There being no changes, a motion was made by Charles Sachatello to accept the minutes as distributed and seconded by Barbara Young. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 1: Candidates for Degrees – Resolution requesting authorization for the President to confer degrees to each individual identified on the attached list, upon certification that the requirements for those degrees have been satisfactorily completed. A motion was made by Charles Sachatello to approve the recommendation and seconded by Barbara Young. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 2: Academic Degree Recommendation – Resolution requesting approval to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Chinese Language and Literature (CIP Code: 16.0301, PROG: AS BA CHLL) in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective in the fall 2011 semester. Interest in China throughout the state and among University of Kentucky students has grown rapidly. According to the Kentucky China Trade Center, Kentucky exports to China topped \$600 million in 2008, an increase of over 800 percent since 2000. Across the state, these economic realities have been met by a growing interest in Chinese language. Each year about 40 teachers come to Kentucky from China to teach Chinese in K-12 schools through an agreement between the Kentucky Department of Education and Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International.

An undergraduate major in Chinese does not exist at any public or private university in Kentucky. As the flagship institution, the University of Kentucky is the appropriate place to initiate this program. The major will allow UK to prepare teachers for certification by the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board to teach Chinese in Kentucky schools. The proposed program will also prepare students for a variety of postbaccalaureate options, serving as preparation both for graduate training in fields requiring advanced Chinese language competence and for Chinese-related career choices. Creating this program will contribute to satisfying the imperative of helping our constituents function successfully in this age of globalization.

After a general discussion, a motion was made by Charles Sachatello to approve the recommendation and seconded by Barbara Young. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Gannon introduced Dr. Michael D. Mullen, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, for an update on UK Core, the new general education curriculum. Dr. Mullen distributed a handout describing the lengthy and thoughtful conversation the University of Kentucky has been engaged in about the general education curriculum. After approving a set of Design Principles for a revised curriculum, in March 2008 the University Senate and Provost jointly established a General Education Reform Steering Committee, whose recommended Learning Outcomes and Curriculum Framework were approved by the University Senate at its December 8, 2008 meeting. The learning outcomes adopted by the University Senate articulate the major components of a curricular framework for general education and the distribution of course work within each segment of that framework. On December 13, 2010 the University Senate voted to move forward with the implementation, effective for fall semester 2011.

The Design Principles, Learning Outcomes and Framework used are identified below:

#### Design Principles

1. Courses in the general education curriculum will incorporate learning experiences that produce understanding of the process of inquiry and help students develop crucial thinking skills.
2. The general education curriculum will consist of no more than the equivalent of thirty credit hours of course work.
3. A revised curriculum will intentionally identify and strengthen the connections between the general education curriculum and the student's major field of study.
4. A revised general education curriculum will be designed to smooth students' transition from high school to a research university, and to establish the foundations for advanced college-level learning.
5. A revised general education curriculum will pay explicit attention to developing students' communication skills and quantitative reasoning abilities.
6. The general education curriculum will lay the foundation for effective citizenship in our pluralistic society that is increasingly interconnected with a multilingual, global community.
7. The curriculum will specify learning outcomes and the processes for both the systematic assessment of those learning outcomes and ongoing curriculum improvement.

#### UK Core Learning Outcomes

1. An understanding of and ability to employ the processes of intellectual inquiry.
2. Competent written, oral, and visual communication skills both as producers and consumers of information.
3. An understanding of and ability to employ methods of quantitative reasoning.
4. An understanding of the complexities of citizenship and the process for making informed choices as engaged citizens in a diverse, multilingual world.

### The Framework

One course in each of the areas below that address the four overarching Student Learning Outcomes, resulting in at least 30 hours of general education course work in every undergraduate degree program.

I. Inquiry (12 credits)

- \* Arts and Creativity
- \* Humanities
- \* Natural/Mathematical/Physical Science
- \* Social Sciences

Community

II. Quantitative Reasoning (6 credits)

- \* Quantitative Foundations
- \* Statistical Inferential Reasoning

III. Written, Oral and Digital com (6 credits)

- \* Composition and Communication I
- \* Composition and Communication II

IV. Citizenship (6 credits)

- \* U.S. Citizenship, Culture & Global Dynamics

Provost Subbaswamy said this is one of the more exciting things we have undertaken at the University of Kentucky and its success is a huge complement to our faculty and Faculty Senate.

Mr. Gannon thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Gannon  
Interim Chair  
Academic Affairs Committee