

**UNC GREENSBORO**  
**GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**Friday, September 27, 2024**

**Members Present:** Jessica McCall, Hunter Bacot, Raina Barnett, Angela Bolte, Sarah Cervenak, Jim Coleman, Kristie Davis-Collins, Veronica Grossi, Andrew Hamilton, Izzet Lofca, Jessica Obermeyer, Jodi Pettazzoni, Melody Rood, Gary Rosenkrantz, Jeff Sarbaum, Dana Saunders, Natalie Sowell

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**I. Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2024 – Action Item**

Motion to approve September 13, 2024, meeting minutes (Lofca, Sowell); minutes approved.

**II. MAC Appeals – Action Item**

- 78619 – Request to allow NUT 110 to satisfy MAC Health & Wellness competency.  
Action: Motion to table (Coleman, Cervenak), to allow Andrew Hamilton time to discuss course equivalency with academic department; motion approved.
- 78737 – Request to allow MUSI 105 to satisfy MAC Critical Thinking & Inquiry in the Humanities & Fine Arts competency.  
Action: Motion to approve (Coleman, Obermeyer); motion approved.
- 76356 – Request to allow Ancient and Medieval Literature to satisfy MAC Critical Thinking & Inquiry in the Humanities & Fine Arts competency.  
Action: Motion to approve (Lofca, Coleman); motion approved.

**III. Foundations of American Democracy Requirement – Action Item**

Council members reviewed the Foundations of American Democracy document sent by the Implementation Committee (IC). The IC proposal offered two options for completing the requirement:

- FoAD Marker: Modify the MAC to require FoAD and create a new marker for courses that meet the UNC System Office specified learning outcomes. These courses would be offered across all appropriate MAC competencies with students receiving credit for both the MAC competency and the FoAD requirement.
- MAC +: Modify the MAC to include, in addition to one three-hour course in each of the eleven competencies, one semester credit hour of instruction (fifteen contact hours) in the FoAD learning outcomes.

The IC recommends the MAC+ approach.

Question raised about the September 13 vote to include FoAD requirements in the gen ed program; Chair said that all votes were counted. Council members were reminded that the decision should be based on student success.

Andrew provided a very overview of the document shared by the IC. There are legitimate merits and demerits to both approaches. The IC will execute on whatever the will of the Faculty Senate is. Question asked if the Council recommendation will go to the full Senate for a vote. Chair advised that she would work with the Senate representative to move the proposal forward.

MAC+ pros and cons:

- A well-designed one-hour course (or courses) can deliver all content.
- A one-hour course will not have unintended effects on enrollment.
- Students could still encounter additional FoAD content in other courses.
- Multiple one-hour courses would offer different disciplinary perspectives.
- This approach ensures faculty involved in the course design delivery are experts in the subject matter.
- The one-hour course would add an hour to the MAC curriculum.
- Argument that one hour would not create the educational experience intended for our students.
- Could highlight and emphasize the requirement.

Marker approach pros and cons:

- Relevant departments have the capacity to offer seats.
- Some departments are already offering the content.
- Content is considered to be critically important for all undergraduate students and should be highlighted.
- FoAD learning outcomes cannot be appropriately taught or delivered in a one-hour course.
- Delivers the requirement in a way that does not unduly highlight.
- FoAD would be included with a MAC competency course and would not add hours to the program.
- “Sprinkle” approach would impact existing MAC offerings and departments. Students will choose to “double dip”.
- Reintroduces markers.

Chair asked ex-officio members to provide background information on the addition of course attributes.

Markers or course attributes complicates the student record, it does not become a “check one” box. Adding a course attribute will create a scenario where a single course fulfills two different components of a general education program whereas other courses only fulfill one and students have to make the right choice. This overcomplicates the process for students and advisors. It is antithetical to student success, the best choice we can make for our students is one of simplicity. A new course attribute also adds a layer of complication for the College of Arts and Sciences CIC requirements.

Council members continued discussion:

- The MAC+ approach adds one hour to the curriculum which will mean some programs will have to reduce requirements by 1 hour. Has this been vetted by the programs that will be impacted and have they agreed to this? Andrew took this to Academic Council and there was a consensus that these programs could add one hour, there was no sign from the Deans of those programs that this would be a significant challenge.
- How would the course attribute approach affect delivery of current MAC courses?
- How would a one credit course affect workload?

- How will these options work with transfer student credits? Raina said that this will be a complicated process for UNC System transfers given that institutions are implementing this differently. Out of state transfer courses will be reviewed by the relevant department if the course is an equivalent to an existing MAC course, the credit will be granted. If not, the Council will review an appeal.
- There are implementation workload issues and a resource issue. MAC+ would require fewer resources.
- What will these course sections look like? Probably a lot of large online sections.
- Course attribute approach could create a shift in enrollment toward the courses that have the FoAD attribute.
- We have an obligation to use our expertise in education to teach this in a way that is effective and meaningful.
- Are there courses on the books that exist that can fulfill this requirement? Yes, but they might need slight redesigns.
- Concern that the one-hour course will not satisfy the requirement. We currently have existing capacity to offer a three-hour course which would be the least disruptive path.
- Which course would offer the experience that UNCG should be offering to its students? Foundations of American Democracy needs to be a three-hour course, anything less is a disservice to our students.
- We have the expertise to offer substantive, rich courses in this content because we have disciplinary expertise in departments like Political Science, Philosophy, and several others.
- How will the attribute approach impact the enrollment in Humanities & Fine Arts courses? Students will take courses that allow them to double dip, if there is a course in CTI in the Humanities & Fine Arts that carries both CTI HFA and Foundations, more students are going to track into that course and not into the course that only meets CTI in the HFA. We will see outsized enrollments in the courses that carry both attributes and that will reduce enrollment in other courses because students will only need one course to meet both requirements. Dana said that advisors will also advise students in that direction as a matter of efficiency.
- If requirements are embedded in a variety of different courses that creates an incentive structure for students to go to these courses. On some level it takes away their variety of choice to pick a course they might otherwise have taken. Choices that might remove them from exploring what could become a major.
- Could courses in all competencies carry the FoAD attribute? Gary said there are seven or eight competencies that could work, it should not be in the Natural Sciences or Data Analysis.
- 300/400-level courses could not be used to meet this requirement in MAC.
- Question about the process/procedure to follow when presenting this to Senate, do we present a specific path forward?
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Motion to recommend Foundations of American Democracy marker approach to Senate (Rosenkrantz, Cervenak). Discussion concerned seat availability, removal of existing MAC course offerings, development of MAC+ course offerings. Hunter advised that Political Science will not offer a one-hour course. Natalie said that since the implementation of MAC, CVPA is already having difficulty filling courses that previously filled for example a Theatre course now has 16 students in it instead of 70. MAC created a larger pool of courses for students to choose from when Humanities was combined with Fine Arts. Students will double

dip when allowed which means departments and programs will lose student credit hours. Has this body given thought to what is the least harmful implementation?

Andrew added that there are staffing implications with this approach.

Chair called for a vote on the motion; motion was rejected seven to four.

Motion to recommend MAC+ approach to Senate (Sarbaum, Rood). Jim Coleman provided a friendly amendment to the motion stating that the recommendation is contingent on analysis of resources; Jeff added to the amendment to include a contingency that the departments that need to remove a credit hour are formally in agreement with the recommendation. Motion passed seven to three with one abstention.

Chair will communicate Council's proposal to Faculty Senate.

**IV. Chair-elect – Action Item – moved to 10/18/24 meeting.**

- Nomination and election of Chair-elect for the year 2024-2025.

**V. Proposal for Faculty Development**

**VI. Recertification & Assessment update**