MEMORANDUM

TO:       James F. Harris
           Dean, College of Arts & Humanities
FROM:     Phyllis Peres
           Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to modify the Ph.D. in Communication (PCC log no. 06056)

Your proposal to modify the Ph.D. in Communication has been administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.

The changes are effective Fall 2007. The College should ensure that the change is fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc:  Richard Ellis, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
     Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
     Mary Giles, University Senate
     Barbara Hope, Data Administration
     Anne Turkos, Archives
     Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
     Gay Gullickson, Graduate School
     Elizabeth Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities
DATE SUBMITTED__March 6, 2007__

COLLEGE/SCHOOL ARHU__

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM__Communication Department__

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD____ DELETE____ CHANGE____ X_

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

The proposal is to remove COMM 602 (Communication Theory) as a required course for Ph.D. students and make it one of several options for theory courses in a theory requirement.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

See attached.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair
   [Signature] 03/09/07

2. Department Chair
   [Signature] 5/9/07

3. College/School PCC Chair
   [Signature] 3/27/07

4. Dean
   [Signature] 4/6/07

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
   [Signature] 4/29/07

6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
   [Signature] 5/9/07

VPAAP 8-05
COMM 602 has been taught from a social science perspective, and students from other perspectives, such as rhetoric, would benefit from using those three hours to take theory courses more relevant to their particular research area. Currently, all students are required to take communication theory taught from a social science perspective but not all students are required to take rhetorical theory or public relations theory.

Several of our peer Communication departments only require theory courses in the particular specialty. Northwestern University requires Cultural and Critical Theory for rhetoric students on the doctoral level but different theory courses for students studying in other specialties. University of Wisconsin also requires different theory courses depending upon whether students are specializing in rhetoric, film, persuasion, etc. Michigan State requires Communication Theory, but that program is entirely social science. University of Texas has open requirements, leaving decisions about specific courses to the student’s Advisory Committee. University of Georgia is one of few peer institutions still requiring Communication Theory of all students, but it also requires Rhetorical Theory of all students and does not have public relations housed within the department.

Minimum Requirements for a Ph.D. Plan of Study in Communication
(Old Program)

1. All students must successfully complete COMM 700 (3 hours). The department requires that this course be taken in the student’s first semester of the program.

2. All students must complete COMM 602 (Communication Theory).

3. All students must successfully complete a minimum of six hours in a cognate area outside the department (6 hours). The cognate is selected to contribute to the student’s dissertation research. Generally, the cognate area will fall within a single academic discipline. However, a cognate area may be constructed from a combination of courses in more than one discipline if the student can demonstrate that the cognate area is coherent and relevant to the dissertation research and if the Advisory Committee unanimously approves.

4. All students must complete 12 hours of courses of methods and foundational knowledge. To satisfy this requirement, students must complete one of the following sequences: (a) COMM 702 and 703 (for students selecting this sequence, prerequisite courses such as COMM 600 and courses prerequisite to COMM 702 may not be used to satisfy the requirement); (b) COMM 711 and 712; or (c) COMM 714 and 715. The other six hours may be drawn from courses within or outside the department, and the advisory committee must certify the courses provide foundational knowledge in the student’s area of study and/or additional preparation in methods appropriate for advanced research in the dissertation area (12 hours).

5. All students must successfully complete at least 15 additional hours in the area of specialization (15 hours).

6. Students must remain in good standing within the graduate program. Successful completion of courses requires a grade of B or better. Students who have successfully completed COMM 602, 700, 702, 703, 711, or 712 prior to their entry into the Ph.D. program in Communication shall be considered to have met the plan of study requirement for the specific course(s) successfully completed.

Minimum Requirements for a Ph.D. Plan of Study in Communication
(New Program)

1. All students must successfully complete COMM 700 (3 hours). The department requires that this course be taken in the student’s first semester of the program.
2. All students must complete one of the following theory courses: COMM 602 (Communication Theoret), COMM 630 (Seminar in Public Relations Management), or COMM 652 (Contemporary Rhetorical Theory). A second theory course strongly encouraged for all Ph.D. students.

3. All students must successfully complete a minimum of six hours in a cognate area outside the department (6 hours). The cognate is selected to contribute to the student’s dissertation research. Generally, the cognate area will fall within a single academic discipline. However, a cognate area may be constructed from a combination of courses in more than one discipline if the student can demonstrate that the cognate area is coherent and relevant to the dissertation research and if the Advisory Committee unanimously approves.

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