Dr. MacGregor M. Stephenson
Assistant Commissioner for
Academic Affairs and Research
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
1200 East Anderson Lane

Interagency Mail

Dear Dr. Stephenson:

The University of Texas at Austin proposes to change the requirements for the writing flag in the core curriculum.

Because of the nonsubstantive nature of the request, we are approving this administrative change under authority delegated by the Board of Regents. By copy of this letter, I am notifying the General Counsel to the Board of our approval.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Pedro Reyes
Ashbel Smith Professor of Education Policy
Executive Vice Chancellor, ad interim

PR/smr
Attachments
c: President William Powers
Dr. Steven Leslie
Dr. Gretchen Ritter
General Counsel to the Board of Regents Francie A. Frederick
March 5, 2012

Dr. Pedro Reyes
Executive Vice Chancellor, ad interim
Academic Affairs
The University of Texas System
OHH 304 (P4300)

Dear Dr. Reyes:

Enclosed for your approval is a proposed change in the requirements for the writing flag in the core curriculum (D 9349-9350), which was approved by the Faculty Council at its meeting on January 23, 2012. The proposal was broadly and carefully considered via the Educational Policy Committee and subsequently approved by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

We appreciate your help in notifying the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of this change. Please let me know if you have any questions or need other information concerning these changes.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Ritter, Ph.D
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Faculty Governance
Professor of Government

GR: ares, enclosures

xc (letter only):
William Powers, Jr., President of the University
Charles Roedde, Deputy to the President
Paul Woodruff, Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Larry Abraham, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies
Janet Strager, Chair Educational Policy Committee
Lincoln Holmes, Associate Director of Operations, IMA
Brenda Schumann, Associate Registrar
Sue Greninger, Secretary, Office of General Faculty
Debbie Roberts, Office of General Faculty
January 24, 2012

Steven Leslie  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
The University of Texas at Austin  
MAI 201  
Campus Mail Code: G1000

Dear Provost Leslie:

Enclosed for your consideration and action is a proposed change in the requirements for the writing flag in the core curriculum (D 9349-9350). The proposal was approved by the Faculty Council at its meeting yesterday, January 23, 2012. Final approval of this item resides with UT System with formal notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this item of legislation.

Sincerely,

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary  
The General Faculty and Faculty Council

SAG:dlr

Enclosure

xc: William Powers Jr., president  
Charles Roeckle, deputy to the president  
Gretchen Ritter, vice provost

Electronic copies via email:  
Paul Woodruff, dean undergraduate studies  
Larry Abraham, associate dean, undergraduate studies  
Janet Staiger, chair, Educational Policy Committee  
Brenda Schumann, associate registrar  
Amelia Ray-Shannon, assistant to Gretchen Ritter  
Jen Morgan, assistant to Larry Abraham
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSED CHANGE IN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WRITING FLAG IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

On behalf of the Educational Policy Committee, Professor Janet Staiger (radio-television-film) has submitted the following proposed change in requirements for the writing flag in the core curriculum. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of general interest to more than one college or school. It will be presented to the Faculty Council at its meeting on January 23, 2012.

On December 2, 2011, the Educational Policy Committee unanimously endorsed the proposed change. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval resides with UT System with formal notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Sue Alexander Greninger
Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

Distributed through the Faculty Council website (www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on January 12, 2012.
PROPOSED CHANGE IN REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WRITING FLAG IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Change in Requirements for the Writing Flag in the Core Curriculum

Objections have been raised to the requirement that peer review be included in the writing flag in the core curriculum. Some faculty object to requiring peer review because they do not believe it is an effective part of teaching good writing, at least for them, and want it removed as a requirement in writing flag courses. Considering this matter, the Educational Policy Committee consulted with people who teach writing effectively, both those who object to the requirement and those who support it. Respecting the principle that faculty should have flexibility and academic freedom in their approaches to teaching their courses, the Educational Policy Committee recommends that peer review be encouraged but become optional. The EPC encourages faculty to include peer review in their writing flag courses but offers a revision that responds positively to the principled objections to the current requirement.

Core Curriculum (5155-5163) approved November 27, 2006
Writing
Requirement: 3 flagged courses in addition to RHE 306, RHE 306Q, or their equivalent

Courses that carry the writing flag must:

- Require students to write regularly—several times during the semester—and to complete writing projects that are substantial. It is only through the practice of writing that students learn to improve their writing.
- Be structured around the principle that good writing requires rewriting. Students must receive meaningful feedback from the instructor (or teaching assistant) so they can improve successive drafts.
- Include writing assignments that constitute at least one-third of the final grade in the course. These assignments must be graded on writing quality as well as content.
- Provide an opportunity for students to read each other's work in order to offer constructive criticism. Careful reading and analysis of the writing of others is a valuable part of the learning process.

PROPOSED:
Writing
Requirement: 3 flagged courses in addition to RHE 306, RHE 306Q, or their equivalent

Courses that carry the writing flag must:

- Require students to write regularly—several times during the semester—and to complete writing projects that are substantial. It is only through the practice of writing that students learn to improve their writing.
- Be structured around the principles that good writing requires rewriting and that careful reading and analysis of the writing of others is a valuable part of the learning process. Students must receive meaningful feedback from the instructor (or teaching assistant) so they can improve successive drafts. Instructors are encouraged to have students read each other's work in order to offer constructive criticism.
- Include writing assignments that constitute at least one-third of the final grade in the course. These assignments must be graded on writing quality as well as content.
- Provide an opportunity for students to read each other's work in order to offer constructive criticism. Careful reading and analysis of the writing of others is a valuable part of the learning process.
January 24, 2012

Steven Leslie
Executive Vice President and Provost
The University of Texas at Austin
MAI 201
Campus Mail Code: G1000

Dear Provost Leslie:

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Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this item of legislation.

Sincerely,

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The General Faculty and Faculty Council

SAG:dr

Enclosure

xc: William Powers Jr., president
    Charles Roeckle, deputy to the president
    Gretchen Ritter, vice provost

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    Paul Woodruff, dean undergraduate studies
    Larry Abraham, associate dean, undergraduate studies
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