To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Pedro Caban, Chair
              GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: October 29, 2012

Subject: Report and Recommendations


CC&I Members Absent: B. Dieffenbach and M. VanUllen

The CC&I Committee met on October 29, 2012 to discuss three items of business. The following recommendations are now forwarded for GAC’s review and further action.

1. **School of Education – Request to revise the MS in Reading Teacher degree program**

The School of Education’s MS in Reading Teacher program originally led to provisional certification as a reading teacher. However, this provisional or any other teacher certification option has no longer been available or attached to this degree for the last seven years. Therefore, a change in title to MS in Reading and revisions to the program’s description are sought. The new focus of the degree is to prepare students to work in literacy settings other than the traditional K-12 school settings requiring certification. “Literacy volunteers, international students, parents, private school providers, prison setting counselors” were all mentioned as those who were interested in such a degree but who would not need to pursue teacher certification.

The MS in Reading program is to be comprised of courses that were either active components of the original Reading Teacher program or that are presently found available in other School of Education degree programs. It is anticipated that there would be room in these courses to accommodate the five to ten students who would apply and/or be admitted. Therefore, the program is felt to be resource neutral.

The degree’s designated capstone is ERdg 658, Research Project. This inquiry project will enable students to pick a focus of their particular interest and will hold all students to the same component, research-base and format.

An email vote was conducted with all eight CC&I members approving the updated, revised MS in Reading program. Therefore, the proposal is sent forward to the GAC with the unanimous endorsement of the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction.

2. **School of Education’s Department of Educational Theory and Practice (ETAP) – Request to remove the Praxis I examination from its Master of Secondary Education (MSSE) degree programs**

The Praxis I exam is constructed and tailored for entry level freshman and sophomore applicants of undergraduate teacher education programs. The School of Education stated that it was not finding the test useful in discriminating among its upper classmen or post graduate applicants. Removing the exam from the admissions’ requirements of all nine of its MSSE graduate programs would be more in line with the rest of the University at Albany School of Education programs as well as with other universities also competing for qualified applicants.

The removal of the Praxis I exam from the University’s MSSE programs was viewed positively and the Committee voted unanimously (5-0-0) in favor of the proposal.
3. School of Business – Proposal to revise its Graduate Certificate in Information Security degree program

Proposal was tabled pending receipt of additional information felt necessary for further discussion.