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To: Dr. Eric Berlatsky  
Chair, English Department

Dr. Mark Harvey  
Interim Chair, Dorothy F. Schmidt Department of Arts and Letters Undergraduate Programs  
Committee

From: Dr. Julieann Ulin  
Associate Professor of English  
Chair, English Undergraduate Committee

Subject: English Program Change

On 10/24/16, the English Department met to discuss the current language in the catalog stating that no more than six courses at the 3000 level could count toward the major. Currently, students take two course requirements at the 3000 level (Literary Theory and Introduction to Literary Studies) as part of the six courses permitted and take seven 4000-level courses.

The discussion was motivated by recurring cases in which students had taken more than six 3000-level courses and were delayed in their progress toward the degree. Following discussion, the English Department voted to eliminate the distinction between 3000 and 4000-level courses in terms of major requirements. The vote (18 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention) was based upon the following:

--The English Department requirement that majors complete coursework across three categories (Category I: Literature of Ethnicity, Gender and Culture/Category II: American Literature, British Literature and Genre Studies/ Category III: Writing and Rhetoric) effectively controls course distribution.

--The English Department major is organized according to concentrations and historical distributions and this organization makes the 3000/4000 level distinction an unnecessary barrier.

--A faculty poll during discussion showed no distinction between how faculty teach upper-division English courses at the 3000 level vs. the 4000 level.

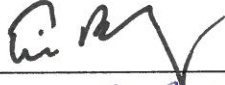
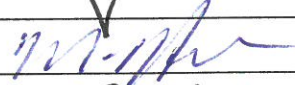
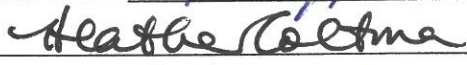
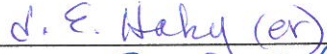

--As these course numbers are assigned at the state level, no clear rationale exists for the distinction in these upper-division courses in terms of subject matter difficulty or skills acquisition, which are similar across the upper-division courses. Discussion based on the attached file showing the division between 3000 and 4000 courses found the division to be arbitrary.

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--The current requirement that no more than six 3000-level courses may count toward the major has proven to be a graduation barrier to students at partner campuses. During discussion, faculty stated that some students were sitting out a semester to wait for a 4000-level course, thereby delaying time to degree.

Attached please find the list of 3000 and 4000 level courses in the major as a supporting document as well as the requested changes (highlighted in yellow) to the course catalog.

<i>Approved by:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
Department Chair:			10/27/16
College Curriculum Chair:			11/28/16
College Dean:			12-12-16
UUPC Chair:			12/13/16
Undergraduate Studies Dean:			12/14/16
UFS President:			
Provost:			