

## Summary for Curriculum Council – Speech Communication Program Review

- I. Description of Review (dates and participants—see exec. summary)
- II. Positive feedback included acknowledgement of the dedicated, collaborative, and passionate faculty, a demonstrable commitment to teaching excellence in UG education, and outstanding student access and interaction with faculty in terms of teaching, mentoring, and advising. Students are very happy in the program.
- III. Several recommendations were made and are detailed in the executive summary and action plan documents the council has received. To summarize, we see the issues falling into three categories.
  - a. **Issue 1: Faculty and Administration communication and culture conflicts.** This can be seen in the action report under numbers 1 (suggestion to explore the creation of a new school of communication), 2 (discussion of the teaching vs. research mission), 3 (the question of whether to pursue the creation of a new master's program), and 5 (the need to refine the narrative/mission of the program moving into the future to distinguish the program among peers).
  - b. **Issue 2: Resources.** This can be seen in the action plan report under numbers 3 (the need for more faculty), 8 (the need to attract instructional staff who have graduated from other programs) and 10 (the need to balance teaching and research more evenly among the full time faculty, preferably to a 2-2-1 course load).
  - c. **Issue 3: Pedagogies/Teaching Practices.** This can be seen in the action plan report under numbers 6 (the need to expand high impact practices), 7 (the need to make more connections with alumni and students), 11 (the need to expand the use of educational technology), and 15 (expanding online offerings).
- IV. Reviewers recommend that the curriculum council request a revised action plan, addressing the following:
  - a. Synthesize the current list of actions into a chart or table that includes three components – specific, measurable goals; specific actions with responsibilities designated; and specific timelines with deadlines. We believe this will help identify dependencies and overlap in the current actions.
  - b. Update the action plan to include strategic planning that will help faculty and administration work through the details summarized in issue 1 above.
  - c. Update the action plan with more detail from faculty about issue 3 above, including perhaps a baseline plan to use Canvas, not for pedagogical purposes but for communication purposes (announcements, gradebook, documents); and updated information about plans for online development, given the recent discussions to put COMM 111 and 218 online starting in fall 2017.
  - d. Update the action plan to omit item 9.

### Questions for the Curriculum Council:

A curriculum review cannot resolve the communication issues described by the review team. The current action plan includes responses from the school Director on some items, but not on others. Does the curriculum council want to see additional responses from the Director on items where the faculty have indicated that action needs to happen at that level?