

9-10-2009

September 10, 2009

Council on Academic Affairs

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Agenda for the September 10, 2009 CAA Meeting

Items Approved: 09-63a, Group 1 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations: 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18a)
09-63b, Group 2 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 4)
09-63c, Group 3 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 7, with council revisions, and the deletion of Recommendation: 8)

Items Failed: 09-63d, Group 4 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 16)
09-63e, Group 5 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations: 5, 6, 15, 17)
09-63f, Group 6 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 18b)
09-63g, Group 7 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 9)
09-63h, Group 8 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 1)

Items Pending: 09-13, Proposal to Add a New Requirement for Graduation: Writing-Intensive and/or Writing Centered Course Completion
09-66, PSY 3820, Cognitive Neuroscience (New Course)
09-67, Neuroscience Interdisciplinary Minor (New Interdisciplinary Minor)

Council on Academic Affairs Minutes

September 10, 2009

The September 10, 2009 meeting of the Council on Academic Affairs was held at 2:00 p.m. in Room 4440, Booth Library.

Members Present: Dr. Bower, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Green, Dr. Hendrickson, Mr. Lambert, Dr. Reid, Ms. Ruholl, Dr. Shelton, Dr. Sterling, and Dr. White.

Members Absent: Dr. Mitchell.

Staff Present: Provost Lord, Dr. Herrington-Perry, and Ms. Fopay.

Guests Present: Dr. DePetro, Philosophy; Dean Hanner, College of Sciences; Dean Jackman, College of Education & Professional Studies; Ms. Lynch, College of Sciences; Dean Lynch, College of Arts & Humanities; Ms. Miller, College of Arts & Humanities; and Dr. Ringuette, English.

I. Approval of the September 10, 2009 CAA Meeting Minutes.

The minutes of September 10, 2009 were approved as written.

Dr. White arrived at 2:04 p.m.

II. Communications:

a. Waiver Reports:

1. Academic Waiver Reports for August 2009 from the Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences, College of Arts & Humanities, College of Education & Professional Studies, and College of Sciences.
2. Summer 2009 Waiver Appeals Report from Ms. Judy Kopp, Office of the Registrar.

b. Committee Appointments:

1. August 26, 2009 email from Dr. Rebecca Throneburg requesting a CAA volunteer to serve on the Committee for Assessment of Student Learning (CASL) for the academic year 2009-10. (Note: This item was carried over from the September 3, 2009 CAA Agenda.)
No one volunteered. Dr. Hendrickson can't attend the CASL meetings due to a schedule conflict. Dr. Herrington-Perry indicated that there may be some discussion at the next CASL meeting about changing the CASL meeting times, however, she didn't know if it would change since the current meeting time works best for the CASL Chair's schedule. If the meeting time doesn't change, Dr. Herrington-Perry asked the council whether it would want CASL to make some suggestions that CAA could then confirm. Dr. Hendrickson indicated yes, so Dr. Herrington-Perry will bring it up at the next CASL meeting.

III. Committee Reports:

None.

IV. Items Added to the Agenda:

1. 09-66, PSY 3820, Cognitive Neuroscience (New Course)
2. 09-67, Neuroscience Interdisciplinary Minor (New Interdisciplinary Minor)

Dr. Reid moved and Dr. Bower seconded the motion to add these items to the agenda.

V. Items Acted Upon:**1. 09-63, Report & Recommendations of the Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee**

At last week's meeting, Dr. Hyder, Chair of the Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee, presented that report and recommendations and answered questions of the council. Action on the item was postponed. Today, council members continued their discussion of the item. Dr. Bower and Ms. Green, who had served on the Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee, provided answers to questions the council had concerning the reasoning behind some of the recommendations on the report.

Before discussion of agenda item 09-63 began today, Dr. Hendrickson noted he had received two communications this morning concerning the senior seminar report and recommendations. First, he distributed copies of an email (**See Attachment A**) that he had received from Dr. Les Hyder providing clarification of the report. Although, Dr. Hyder's email refers to recommendation #10 on the report, Dr. Hendrickson believed it actually concerns finding #10 listed on page 3 of the report. There was council discussion. Next, Dr. Hendrickson distributed copies of an email (**See Attachment B**) that he had received from Dr. Bonnie Irwin, Dean of the Honors College, indicating that the current standard for an honors senior seminar is four hours, but that information was not mentioned in the section of the report justifying the length of a 3-hour course.

Next, Dr. Hendrickson explained that at last week's CAA meeting, the council discussed whether to act upon the recommendations in the report as a whole or group them into categories. He thought it was left off that the council might possibly want to vote on each recommendation separately or in groups rather than as a whole. He mentioned that he and Dr. Sterling, CAA Vice-Chair, had met, reviewed the recommendations, and put together some categories in which the recommendations might be grouped if the council were agreeable. Discussion occurred.

Dr. Hendrickson moved and Mr. Lambert seconded the motion to accept the recommendations in the report (agenda item 09-63) from the Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee. No voting took place. Rather, the following motion was made.

Dr. Sterling moved and Dr. Bower seconded the motion to divide the question so that the recommendations from the report would be acted upon in groups as shown below.*

First, there was council discussion and then voting took place.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Bower, Campbell, Green, Hendrickson, Lambert, Ruholl, Shelton, Sterling, White
 No: None
 Abstain: Reid

***CAA will act upon the following groups of recommendations individually:**

(Note: For clarity, after the meeting Ms. Fopay assigned agenda item numbers to each grouping.)

Group 1 (Agenda Item 09-63a)

Recommendations: 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18a

2. CAA should reaffirm the senior seminar as an integral, important, distinctive and unique component of EIU's general education curriculum. As such, it should continue to be a culminating experience in which students are challenged to consider the collective academic, extracurricular and other undergraduate experiences and apply them in ways that broaden and enhance their readiness to pursue additional graduate or professional

- study or to begin or continue their journey into a diverse, global and ever-changing world of social, civic and career opportunities and responsibilities.
3. Because of the senior seminar's importance and scope, it must have administrative support at the university, college and departmental levels and be encouraged and nurtured by the faculty and administration collectively through CAA and other bodies. It should continue to be the capstone of the general education curriculum.
 10. The Office of Faculty of Development should be encouraged to offer programs that promote faculty competence in teaching senior seminars and faculty assigned to teach these courses expected to contribute to those programs as participants, presenters, leaders or organizers.
 11. Some courses should include a service learning component.
 12. While not an acceptable alternative to a senior seminar in the general education curriculum, academic units are encouraged to develop capstone courses in a major.
 13. Some senior seminars should be offered in multiple formats, including traditional, weekend, short courses, online, study abroad and others that prepare students for the transition to post-academic environments where such formats could be used for professional development and other forms of training.
 14. Faculty members who have shown a willingness to teach senior seminar courses in multiple formats and at non-traditional times, including weekends, short courses, online, study abroad and others, and who also have demonstrated consistent commitment to professional development, research and service, and other activities that enhance their competence in teaching senior seminars should be encouraged and supported.
 18. Proposed senior seminar requirements.
 - a. Regardless of content and delivery format, the rigor of all senior seminars shall be consistent and appropriate for an upper division capstone course in the general education curriculum and that are tied to the university's mission statement.

Eastern Illinois University is a public comprehensive university that offers superior, accessible undergraduate and graduate education. Students learn the methods and results of free and rigorous inquiry in the arts, humanities, sciences, and professions, guided by a faculty known for its excellence in teaching, research, creative activity, and service. The University community is committed to diversity and inclusion and fosters opportunities for student-faculty scholarship and applied learning experiences within a student-centered campus culture. Throughout their education, students refine their abilities to reason and to communicate clearly so as to become responsible citizens and leaders.

EIU Mission Statement

Group 2 (Agenda Item 09-63b)

Recommendation: 4

4. It is appropriate that university assessment occur during the senior seminar so that valid and meaningful data can be obtained to guide the faculty and administration in assuring both that the university achieving its mission and that the course is fulfilling its mission and purpose. Assessment activities should be scheduled in ways that minimize disruption of the academic content and flow of the course.

Group 3 (Agenda Items 09-63c)

Recommendations: 7, 8

7. Each senior seminar section must be assigned to a qualified faculty member who desires to teach the interdisciplinary content specified in the course proposal as approved by the department's and college's curriculum committee and CAA. This should be a regular and ongoing assignment. The instructor's research/creative and services should reflect work that is as relevant to the senior seminar assignment as it is to other courses taught in the department.
8. Position announcements for faculty positions should state what, if any, senior seminars will be part of the teaching assignments and search committees should consider the credentials and qualifications for candidates accordingly.

Group 4 (Agenda Items 09-63d)

Recommendation: 16

16. To reflect their upper level capstone standards, senior seminars should be numbered beginning at EIU 4801.

Group 5 (Agenda Item 09-63e)

Recommendations: 5, 6, 15, 17

5. The provost and deans again should identify and specify the amounts in the budgets of colleges and departments that are designated for senior seminars. Where appropriate, those funds should be reallocated to departments that demonstrate the greatest commitment to offering senior seminars that are consistent with their mission and purpose.
6. Deans and chairs should determine if and how each academic department's mission is aligned to the centrality of the university through the general education curriculum, and specifically the offering of senior seminar courses and sections. A senior seminar should be offered only by those departments in which the chair and faculty are committed to offering it in ways that are comparable to the most important and required courses for majors. There should be agreement about the usual number of sections that will be offered by the department during each semester and the portion of the department's personnel budget that is specifically allocated for this purpose.
15. When assigning resources to departments and setting goals for chairs and departments, deans of the academic colleges should specify what is expected relative to senior seminar scheduling and instructor assignments.
17. Enrollment in courses offered online, weekends or as intensive short courses should not exceed 15 students per section. Courses offered during traditional time periods should be scheduled to meet for a minimum of 75 minutes per session and enrollment limited to 20 per section.

Group 6 (Agenda Item 09-63f)

Recommendation: 18b

18. Proposed senior seminar requirements.
 - b. Among the elements common to each senior seminar are all or most of the following:
 - free and rigorous, cross-disciplinary inquiry in arts, humanities, sciences or professions; cross-disciplinary team teaching of senior seminar is encouraged
 - use of critical thinking skills learned from student EIU experience of general education and major field to pursue knowledge, choose reliable information, and use problem solving skills to solve global, national, or human problems of great importance
 - inclusion of some concern of citizenship (from global, national, or human perspective) in course content
 - encouragement of student leadership through student discussion and research groups
 - opportunity for student-student scholarship guided by faculty
 - internet or library review of a variety of authoritative written resources, not limited to textbooks, outside of class time
 - expectation that student devote two to three hours for each hour spent in class to outside study and preparation for the class and class assignments
 - applied learning experience (service learning)
 - at least two individual oral presentations (more than five minutes in length) in front of class audience
 - two or more individual papers written outside of class.
 - One will be a reflection on ALL of the following three questions: how has EIU changed the student as a person, what has the student learned at EIU to prepare him for the next stage of his/her life, and how does the student expect to use what he/she has learned after graduation.

- At least one will be a persuasive paper demonstrating the student's acquisition of knowledge and use of critical thinking on a topic relevant to the course topic.
- Papers will be graded on content, demonstration of critical thinking, and correct usage of English language.
- One should meet requirements for submission to electronic writing portfolio.
 - seminar format (more than 60% of time student participation, less than 40% of time instructor lecture, averaged over semester)
 - senior seminar course syllabus will state the senior seminar's purpose and how course objectives and requirements achieve that purpose
 - provisions for classes offered online to meet at least once for oral presentations and assessment activities, and interaction between and among students and with the instructor

Group 7 (Agenda Item 09-63g)

Recommendation: 9

9. Approval for all senior seminar listed in the 2008-2009 undergraduate catalog will expire after summer 2010. Existing senior seminars to be offered fall 2010 or later must be resubmitted for CAA approval. Each senior seminar proposal must demonstrate adherence to the provisions herein regarding course content, cross disciplinary or interdisciplinary focus, standards and delivery, availability of sustained funding, college and departmental commitment, and commitment to excellence and course mission and purpose by each instructor assigned to teach the course.

Group 8 (Agenda Items 09-63h)

Recommendation: 1

1. Revised the Senior Seminar Mission and Scope per the attached proposal submitted to CAA April 9, 2009, which is an addendum to this report and recommendations.

2. 09-63a, Group 1 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations: 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18a)

The council discussed the recommendations.

Dr. Sterling moved and Dr. White seconded the motion to approve recommendations 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 18a. The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Bower, Green, Hendrickson, Lambert, Ruholl, Sterling, White

No: Reid, Shelton

Abstain: Campbell

The following recommendations were approved:

Recommendation 2

CAA should reaffirm the senior seminar as an integral, important, distinctive and unique component of EIU's general education curriculum. As such, it should continue to be a culminating experience in which students are challenged to consider the collective academic, extracurricular and other undergraduate experiences and apply them in ways that broaden and enhance their readiness to pursue additional graduate or professional study or to begin or continue their journey into a diverse, global and ever-changing world of social, civic and career opportunities and responsibilities.

Recommendation 3

Because of the senior seminar's importance and scope, it must have administrative support at the university, college and departmental levels and be encouraged and nurtured by the faculty and administration collectively through CAA and other bodies. It should continue to be the capstone of the general education curriculum.

Recommendation 10

The Office of Faculty of Development should be encouraged to offer programs that promote faculty competence in teaching senior seminars and faculty assigned to teach these courses expected to contribute to those programs as participants, presenters, leaders or organizers.

Recommendation 11

Some courses should include a service learning component.

Recommendation 12

While not an acceptable alternative to a senior seminar in the general education curriculum, academic units are encouraged to develop capstone courses in a major.

Recommendation 13

Some senior seminars should be offered in multiple formats, including traditional, weekend, short courses, online, study abroad and others that prepare students for the transition to post-academic environments where such formats could be used for professional development and other forms of training.

Recommendation 14

Faculty members who have shown a willingness to teach senior seminar courses in multiple formats and at non-traditional times, including weekends, short courses, online, study abroad and others, and who also have demonstrated consistent commitment to professional development, research and service, and other activities that enhance their competence in teaching senior seminars should be encouraged and supported.

Recommendation 18a

Proposed senior seminar requirements.

- a. Regardless of content and delivery format, the rigor of all senior seminars shall be consistent and appropriate for an upper division capstone course in the general education curriculum and that are tied to the university's mission statement.

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EIU Mission Statement

3. 09-63b, Group 2 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 4)

The council discussed the recommendation.

Dr. Hendrickson moved and Dr. Sterling seconded the motion to approve recommendation 4. The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Green, Hendrickson, Lambert, Ruholl, White
No: Campbell, Reid, Shelton, Sterling
Abstain: Bower

The following recommendation was approved:

Recommendation 4

It is appropriate that university assessment occur during the senior seminar so that valid and meaningful data can be obtained to guide the faculty and administration in assuring both that the university achieving its mission and that the course is fulfilling its mission and purpose. Assessment activities should be scheduled in ways that minimize disruption of the academic content and flow of the course.

4. 09-63c, Group 3 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations: 7, 8)

The council discussed the recommendations.

First, Dr. Sterling moved and Dr. Hendrickson seconded the motion to amend recommendations 7 and 8 as shown below. The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Bower, Campbell, Green, Hendrickson, Lambert, Reid, Ruholl, Sterling, White
No: None
Abstain: Shelton

The recommendations were revised.

- 7. Each senior seminar section must be assigned to a qualified faculty member who desires to teach the interdisciplinary content specified in the course proposal as approved by the department's and college's curriculum committee and CAA. ~~This should be a regular and ongoing assignment. The instructor's research/creative and services should reflect work that is as relevant to the senior seminar assignment as it is to other courses taught in the department.~~
- ~~8. Position announcements for faculty positions should state what, if any, senior seminars will be part of the teaching assignments and search committees should consider the credentials and qualifications for candidates accordingly.~~

Next, Mr. Lambert moved and Dr. Bower seconded the motion to approve recommendation 7, with the revisions shown above, and to delete recommendation 8.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: Bower, Green, Hendrickson, Lambert, Ruholl, Sterling, White
No: Reid
Abstain: Campbell, Shelton

Recommendation 7, with revisions, was approved.

Recommendation 7

Each senior seminar section must be assigned to a qualified faculty member who desires to teach the interdisciplinary content specified in the course proposal as approved by the department's and college's curriculum committee and CAA.

Recommendation 8 was deleted.

Recommendation 8

~~Position announcements for faculty positions should state what, if any, senior seminars will be part of the teaching assignments and search committees should consider the credentials and qualifications for candidates accordingly.~~

5. 09-63d, Group 4 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 16)

The council discussed the recommendation.

Dr. Reid moved and Dr. White seconded the motion to approve recommendation 16. The motion failed unanimously.

Therefore, recommendation 16 (See page 4.) was NOT approved.

6. 09-63e, Group 5 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations: 5, 6, 15, 17)

The council discussed the recommendations.

Dr. Reid moved and Dr. Sterling seconded the motion to approve recommendation 5, 6, 15, and 17*. The motion failed unanimously.

Therefore, recommendations 5, 6, 15, and 17 (See page 4.) were NOT approved.

*Note: Before voting on the item, Dr. Bower asked to amend the previous motion by dividing the question and motioning that the council vote on recommendation 6 by itself, vote on recommendation 15 by itself, and vote on recommendations 5 and 17 together. However, no one seconded the motion, so the motion died. As a result, the council voted on the recommendations 5, 6, 15, and 17 as a group.

7. 09-63f, Group 6 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 18b)

The council discussed the recommendation.

Dr. Sterling moved and Dr. Hendrickson seconded the motion to approve recommendation 18b. The motion failed with the following vote.

Yes: Bower

No: Campbell, Hendrickson, Lambert, Reid, Ruholl, Shelton, Sterling, White

Abstain: Green

Therefore, recommendation 18b (See pages 4 and 5.) was NOT approved.

Dr. Campbell left the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

8. 09-63g, Group 7 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 9)

The council discussed the recommendation.

Dr. Bower moved and Dr. Reid seconded the motion to approve recommendation 9. No voting took place at this point. Rather discussion continued and voting was later.

The council discussed possible methods to determine whether existing senior seminars are meeting the goals and objectives listed in the current senior seminar mission. Although a specific method was not chosen, there was a consensus that a good starting point would be to reach out to and encourage the Faculty Development Office, as indicated in recommendation 10 (See page 3 of the minutes), to possibly have workshops/seminars on how to teach senior seminars. Dr. Hendrickson will contact the Faculty Development Office about it.

Dr. Bower requested a friendly amendment to the previous motion to approve recommendation 9 asking to incorporate the following revisions into the recommendation.

Approval for all senior seminar listed in the ~~2008-2009~~ **2009-10** undergraduate catalog will expire after summer ~~2010~~ **2011**. Existing senior seminars to be offered fall ~~2010~~ **2011** or later must be resubmitted for CAA approval. Each senior seminar proposal must demonstrate adherence to the provisions herein regarding course content, cross disciplinary or interdisciplinary focus, standards and delivery, availability of sustained funding, college and departmental commitment, and commitment to excellence and course mission and purpose by each instructor assigned to teach the course.

Next, the council voted on the motion to approve recommendation 9 with the friendly amendment shown above.

The motion failed with the following vote:

Yes: Bower, Green
No: Hendrickson, Lambert, Reid, Shelton, Sterling, White
Abstain: Ruholl

Therefore, recommendation 9, with the friendly amendments, was NOT approved.

Dr. Hendrickson left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.
Dr. Hendrickson returned to the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

9. 09-63h, Group 8 (Senior Seminar Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: 1)
The council discussed the recommendation.

Ms. Green moved and Dr. Sterling seconded the motion to approve recommendation 1. The motion failed unanimously.

Therefore, recommendation 1 (See page 5.) and the addendum incorporating revisions to the existing Senior Seminar Mission and Scope were NOT approved.

Dr. Reid moved and Dr. Bower seconded the motion to suspend the moratorium on senior seminars. Later, Dr. Reid withdrew her motion after the council indicated it would like more time for consideration of it and to see how the recommendations approved today are incorporated in the existing Senior Seminar Mission document.

The recommendations approved today (**See Attachment C**) will be incorporated into the existing Senior Seminar Mission document and presented to the council at a future meeting.

VI. Pending:

1. 09-13, Proposal to Add a New Requirement for Graduation: Writing-Intensive and/or Writing Centered Course Completion

There will not be a meeting next week. The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for September 24, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. *—Minutes prepared by Ms. Janet Fopay, Recording Secretary*

The current agenda and all CAA council minutes are available on the Web at <http://www.eiu.edu/~eiucaa/>. In addition, an electronic course library is available at the <http://www.eiu.edu/~eiucaa/elibrary/>.

The CAA minutes, agendas, and summaries of CAA actions are distributed via a listserv, caa-list. To subscribe, go to the following web site: <http://lists.eiu.edu/mailman/listinfo/caa-list>. Locate the section “Subscribing to caa-list” and enter your email address and create a password. Next, click on the subscribe box. An email will be sent to you requesting confirmation. Once confirmation is received, your request will be held for approval by the list administrator. You will be notified of the administrator’s decision by email.

***** ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING *****
September 24, 2009 (TENTATIVE)
Conference Room 4440 – Booth Library @ 2:00 p.m.

Agenda:

1. 09-66, PSY 3820, Cognitive Neuroscience (New Course)
2. 09-67, Neuroscience Interdisciplinary Minor (New Interdisciplinary Minor)

Approved Executive Actions:

None.

Pending Executive Actions:

None.

Attachment A

From: Les Hyder [lhyder@eiu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 10:13 AM
To: Hendrickson, Darren; Grant Sterling
Cc: Fopay, Janet; Hanner, Mary Anne; Crone, Nancy; Lora Green
Subject: Clarification in senior seminar report

Darren and Grant,

Regarding recommendation #10, Dean Hanner requested clarification of the number of chairs who recommended that the senior seminar be replaced with a major capstone course. Lora Green and Nancy Crone, who kept notes during our meetings including those with interested parties, and I all noted that only one chair made that recommendation. Other chairs indicated that they would like to have a major capstone course but did not recommend or suggest that it should replace the senior seminar. Indeed, there was virtually no support among those who met with us for elimination of the senior seminar. Thus, we conclude that the wording is an overstatement. Recommendation 10 more appropriately should begin "One chair saw" Please share with CAA members at today's meeting.

Best wishes,
Les

--
Dr. Les Hyder
Professor, Journalism
2540 Buzzard Building
600 Lincoln Avenue
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston IL 61920-3099
217-581-7119

Attachment B

From: Bonnie Irwin [bdirwin@eiu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 9:13 AM
To: Hendrickson, Darren
Cc: Fopay, Janet
Subject: Communication to CAA

Darren,

In reading the report of the Senior Seminar Subcommittee, I noticed that there is a section that justifies the 3-hour length of the course, but no mention of the fact that honors senior seminars are currently 4-hour courses.

The Honors Council continues to review and discuss the relative merits of 3- and 4-hour versions of our courses. After consultation with current honors senior seminar instructors, I am not prepared at this time to advocate one way or another, but I wanted to make sure that everyone on CAA understood that the current standard for an honors senior seminar is 4 hours, originally established to promote additional rigor and allow for the course to function not only as a general education capstone, but also as an honors capstone.

My apologies in advance for missing the meeting today. We have our first Honors Council meeting of the semester at the same hour.

Bonnie

Bonnie D. Irwin, PhD

Dean, The Honors College
NSE Coordinator
Professor of English
Vice President, National Collegiate Honors Council

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Attachment C**Recommendations of the Senior Seminar Advisory Committee Approved by CAA 9-10-09:**

2. CAA should reaffirm the senior seminar as an integral, important, distinctive and unique component of EIU's general education curriculum. As such, it should continue to be a culminating experience in which students are challenged to consider the collective academic, extracurricular and other undergraduate experiences and apply them in ways that broaden and enhance their readiness to pursue additional graduate or professional study or to begin or continue their journey into a diverse, global and ever-changing world of social, civic and career opportunities and responsibilities.
3. Because of the senior seminar's importance and scope, it must have administrative support at the university, college and departmental levels and be encouraged and nurtured by the faculty and administration collectively through CAA and other bodies. It should continue to be the capstone of the general education curriculum.
4. It is appropriate that university assessment occur during the senior seminar so that valid and meaningful data can be obtained to guide the faculty and administration in assuring both that the university achieving its mission and that the course is fulfilling its mission and purpose. Assessment activities should be scheduled in ways that minimize disruption of the academic content and flow of the course.
7. Each senior seminar section must be assigned to a qualified faculty member who desires to teach the interdisciplinary content specified in the course proposal as approved by the department's and college's curriculum committee and CAA.
10. The Office of Faculty of Development should be encouraged to offer programs that promote faculty competence in teaching senior seminars and faculty assigned to teach these courses expected to contribute to those programs as participants, presenters, leaders or organizers.
11. Some courses should include a service learning component.
12. While not an acceptable alternative to a senior seminar in the general education curriculum, academic units are encouraged to develop capstone courses in a major.
13. Some senior seminars should be offered in multiple formats, including traditional, weekend, short courses, online, study abroad and others that prepare students for the transition to post-academic environments where such formats could be used for professional development and other forms of training.
14. Faculty members who have shown a willingness to teach senior seminar courses in multiple formats and at non-traditional times, including weekends, short courses, online, study abroad and others, and who also have demonstrated consistent commitment to professional development, research and service, and other activities that enhance their competence in teaching senior seminars should be encouraged and supported.
- 18a. Regardless of content and delivery format, the rigor of all senior seminars shall be consistent and appropriate for an upper division capstone course in the general education curriculum and that are tied to the university's mission statement.

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