Senate Committee on Admissions and Standards
Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2017

Attendance: Lisa Armistead, Michelle Brattain, Chandra Breaux, Scott Burke, Allison Calhoun-Brown, Carol Cohen, Sara Cook, Dan Cox, Alonda Cruz-Hernandez, Debra Denzer, Gerald Gay, Brad Horton, Lixin Huang, Cyntoria Johnson, Elizabeth Lopez, Deborah Manson, John Medlock, Valerie Miller, Alice Pierce, Deborah Shapiro, Greg Streib, Winnie Tsang-Kosma, Gangli Wang, Shelly-Ann Williams, Marc Zayac

Approval of minutes from meeting on July 26, 2017
The minutes of the July 26, 2017, meeting were approved as distributed.

Introduction of new committee clerk
On behalf of the committee, Dr. Elizabeth Lopez thanked Wanda Taylor for her many years of service to the committee as clerk.

Dr. Lopez introduced the new clerk, Lori Howard from the Dept. of English.

Motion to Consider Applicants with Three-Year Degrees into Graduate Programs

Dr. Lisa Armistead presented the motion to consider accepting applicants with three-year degrees into graduate programs. The university needs a clear, consistent standard to open the door to the possibility of accepting three-year degrees from all over the world. Dr. Armistead explained that three-year degree programs would need to be evaluated for baccalaureate equivalency by an out-of-house evaluator at an expense to the applicants. The outside evaluators will have to be approved; GSU already uses these companies to translate international degrees.

Effective Spring 2018

Motion: International applicants with three-year undergraduate degrees will be considered for admission into graduate programs. Such applicants will be reviewed by a Foreign Credential Evaluator in Graduate Admissions or an external professional evaluator and forwarded to programs for review if degree equivalency is established. As with all applicants, individual graduate programs will determine whether to admit applicants with three-year degrees.

Background and Rationale: Under the Bologna Process, European nations sought to standardize degrees such that three years was the standard time to degree. Australia and India also award degrees after three years of study. Generally, three year degrees tend to focus less on general education courses (i.e., freshman courses), with in depth focus on courses in the major. General education content is covered within the high school curriculum. Some of GSU’s graduate programs have expressed interest in considering applicants from these institutions, and three-year degrees are considered for baccalaureate degree equivalence across a range of institutions nationwide, including George Mason University, Old Dominion
University, University of Central Florida, Wichita State University, Indiana University-
Perdue University Indianapolis, Stanford, and Georgia Institute of Technology.

The motion was approved.

Information Item on Elimination of Standardized Tests for Admissions in Selected
Graduate Programs

Dr. Armistead updated the group on the new process. During the 2016-17 academic year, a joint
committee of Admissions and Standards and Academic Programs considered requests from
graduate programs seeking to eliminate an admissions requirement (e.g., standardized test scores,
such as GRE & GMAT). As admissions requirements are considered during the Academic
Program approval process, consultation with the CAP and Admissions & Standards committee
chairs led to the development of the joint committee. Committee members were Jared Poley,
Lynda Goodfellow, Sarah Cook, Lisa Armistead, and Carrie Manning. Information considered
by the ad hoc committee included:
1) Whether the admissions requirement (e.g., GRE) is used in determining program
rankings or essential to reporting for accreditation?
2) How the change is situated within the norms of the discipline? Do peer and
aspirational programs continue to rely on the requirement for admissions decisions? If so,
how will moving away from disciplinary norms impact the graduate program?
3) In the case of master’s programs, how will removal of the requirement impact
placement success rates for those programs populated by students intending to pursue a
more advanced graduate degree (e.g., Ph.D.)?
4) What impact(s) is removal of the requirement anticipated to have on application
quality and quantity?

Prior to the joint committee’s consideration of these requests, programs sought approval of the
dean/director responsible for the administration of the program.

The joint committee of Admissions and Standards and Academic Programs voted
to support the removal of standardized tests in admissions decisions for the
following programs.

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
M.A. in Economics

College of Arts and Sciences
B.A. in Applied Linguistics/M.A. in Applied Linguistics
B.S. in Biology/M.S. in Biology
B.S. in Chemistry/M.S. in Chemistry
B.S. in Computer Science/M.S. in Computer Science
B.A. in French/M.A. in French
B.A. in Geosciences/M.S. in Geosciences
B.S. in Geosciences/M.S. in Geosciences  
B.A. in History/M.A. in History  
B.A. in History/M.H.P in Historic Preservation  
B.S. in Neuroscience/M.S. in Neuroscience  
B.A. In Political Science/M.A. in Political Science  
B.A. in Religious Studies/M.A. in Religious Studies  
B.A. in Sociology/M.A. in Gerontology  
B.A. in Sociology/M.A. in Sociology  
B.A. in Spanish/M.A. in Spanish  
M.A. in African American Studies  
M.A. in Anthropology  
M.A. in Applied Linguistics  
M.A. in Gerontology  
M.A. in Spanish and French  
M.A. in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies  

**College of the Arts**  
B.A. in Art, Art History Concentration / M.A. in Art History  
B.A. in Film and Video / M.A. in Communication, Film/Video Concentration  
Masters of Music in Composition  

**College of Education and Human Development**  
M.A. Creative and Innovative Education  
M.A.T. English Education  
M.A.T. English to Speakers of Other Languages  
M.A.T. English to Speakers of Other Languages Online  
M.A.T. Health and Physical Education  
M.A.T. Mathematics Education  
M.A.T. Middle Level Education  
M.A.T. Science Education  
M.A.T. Social Studies Education  
M.A.T. Special Education  
M.Ed. Early Childhood Education-UACM  
M.Ed. Educational Leadership  
M.Ed. Elementary Education  
M.Ed. English Education  
M.Ed. Health and Physical Education  
M.Ed. Literacy Education  
M.Ed. Mathematics Education (on campus and on-line) M.Ed.  
Reading, Language, and Literacy Education Online M.Ed.  
Science Education Online
M.Ed. Social Studies Education
M.S. Instructional Design and Technology

Dr. Armistead noted that the graduate admissions office needs clarity around the acceptance of non-native speakers into programs. Dr. Debra Denzer said that the Office of International Student Admissions has a list of countries that would need to take the TOEFL.

Discussion of Committee Projects for 2017-2018 and Ad Hoc Committees (Dr. Lopez)

In keeping with our committee responsibilities and university mission, we have the following projects identified for the 2017-2018 senate year. Membership in ad hoc committees is open to any on the larger committee.

- Proposal in Progress: Fee restructuring for the testing center (post consolidation) [Alice Pierce is interested in this topic]
- Ad Hoc Committee Forming: Global and City Scholar Programs and Policies
  Shelley Williams: trying to simplify the guidelines and make it easier to manage interdisciplinary programs. Shelley Williams and Sarah Cook are interested in this committee.
- Ad Hoc Committee Forming: Review communication of admissions policies and standards to students for varied programs and campuses to ensure consistency (review of catalogs, website content, and individual unit communications), Dual admission policy for the access/2-year campuses and the 4-year campuses; we want to make sure that the communication is clear, esp. for nonnative speakers, etc.; especially checking on consistency post-consolidation as part of a regular check.
- Ad Hoc Committee Forming: Review of Academic Honesty policy and procedures for disciplinary hearing and appeals
- Ad Hoc Committee Forming: Review of C- Grade and Graduation Requirements
- Review and submit catalog or website changes as needed to include any approved changes from the last year/cycle and for the current year or to edit for consistency across communications
- Ad Hoc Committee Forming: evaluation of non-native speakers for graduate programs, as suggested by Lisa Armistead in this meeting.

Academic Calendar issues will come before the committee soon. The Academic Calendar needs to be changed to be in compliance with BOR rules for contact hours. Changes could start with summer or fall 2018.

Question: Dr. Alice Pierce asked if there would be math class placement based on EPI/MPI scores. Dr. Carol Cohen said the pilot is starting in spring semester; students will be able to test in with the MPI to be collegiate ready, but not for Math 1111.

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm.
Committee Meeting Dates for 2017-2018 Senate Year
This committee will meet the last Wednesday of each month from 12:30-2 p.m. in 25 Park Place, #2150. All dates are posted on the Senate calendar as well.

October 25, 2017
November 29, 2017
December 13, 2017 (second Wednesday)
January 31, 2018
February 28, 2018
March 28, 2018
April 25, 2018