

October 30, 2009

Dear Chair Morgan,

This letter is intended to respond to Dean Pittenger's concerns as outlined on Page 3 of the "Request for Undergraduate Course Change" form. I have listed his first two concerns verbatim and then describe my response below each concern.

1. "Academic experience gained in extra hour":

The extra hour is intended to model the course/lab model often utilized in the sciences or in other teacher training courses where part of the instruction is classroom-based and part of the instruction is hands-on experience with the subject matter. In this case, students will be taking a traditional 3-credit hour seminar in a classroom where reading, responding to readings, and writing will be the focus. They will then be required to tutor 10-15 hours per week in the Writing Center where they will both observe other tutors and record their own tutoring sessions for self-assessment purposes. Their observations will be described and reflected upon in writing as part of the course. They will also keep a journal of their tutoring sessions where they will further reflect on the theories we discuss in class and how they see those theories applied in actual tutoring. The practical experience justifies the extra hour.

2. "Level/volume of work expected of students":

The amount of work required of students will be equivalent to the amount of work typical of an upper division English class. Students will read approximately 50-100 pages a week and complete weekly writing assignments. They will also be required to tutor 10 hours per week.

3. "Faculty engagement in the extra hour":

The Writing Center Director will teach the course and oversee students practical experience in the Writing Center.

Thank you for taking up this matter in your next meeting. I hope to be there to offer additional explanations as necessary.

Best,

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