UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

TRANSMITTAL OF FACULTY SENATE LEGISLATION

(Faculty Senate legislation is to be submitted to the chancellor to approve or disapprove within ten calendar days of the Faculty Senate action. The chancellor may approve or veto any Faculty Senate legislation within a period from the eleventh through the twenty-fifth calendar day after such action has been presented, unless the Assembly has been petitioned to amend or rescind the Faculty Senate legislation. In the latter case, the chancellor's approval or veto shall be made no later than fifteen calendar days after the Assembly has voted on and failed to approve a motion to amend or rescind a legislative action of the Faculty Senate. The chancellor shall provide written reasons for a veto to the Faculty Senate.)

To the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock:

The following resolution/legislation passed the UALR Faculty Senate on February 19, 2016.

Motion FS_2016_9. Joanne Liebman Matson on behalf of the Ad Hoc Skills in the Major Committee (Legislation. Requires majority vote at one Faculty Senate meeting, second required) Implementation of Skills in the Major legislation

Whereas the Faculty Senate approved a Skills in the Major requirement for programs as part of the Baccalaureate Degree Requirement legislation passed March 15, 2013, and modified by Legislation FS 2014_19 and FS 2014_30; and

Whereas the Skills in the Major legislation, as modified, provided that,

Except in majors that must adhere to standards established by disciplinary accrediting agencies, major requirements must include courses or coursework either in or outside the department in

- Oral and written communication in the discipline
- Research methods, ethics, and critical thinking
- Technology; and

Whereas the Skills in the Major legislation must be implemented by Fall 2016 (FS 2014_30); and

Whereas departments are the ones best suited to determine the specifics of their curricula; and

Whereas the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) (see https://www.hlcommission.org/), which will next review UALR during 2019-2020, states, "The institution assesses achievement of the learning outcomes that it claims for its curricular and co-curricular programs" (Criterion for Accreditation 4.2.2);

Therefore be it resolved that the Skills in the Major (SKIM) portion of the Baccalaureate Degree Requirements legislation shall be implemented in the following manner:

- 1. The *ad hoc* Skills in the Major Committee (hereafter, the Committee) shall be responsible for implementing the requirement.
- 2. The Committee shall consist of 13 members: 1 member each elected by the College of Business, the College of Education & Health Professions, the College of Engineering & Information Technology;

and the Ottenheimer Library; 2 members each elected by the College of Arts, Letters, & Sciences and the College of Social Science & Communications (the rationale for this being that 20 out of 25 of the affected programs lie within these two colleges); and 5 members appointed by the Faculty Senate President with expertise in the skills represented in the requirement. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs and Institutional Improvement shall serve *ex officio* without vote. Members shall serve a 2-year term starting Fall 2016.

- 3. The Committee shall function through May 2018, at which time its responsibilities shall be transferred to the Council on Core Curriculum and Policies.
- 4. To implement the requirement, the Committee shall request information from the departments covered under the legislation (i.e., bachelor's programs that are not subject to a disciplinary accrediting agency), first, about the current state of instruction in the SKIM areas; then later about the evidence they're collecting regarding student learning in the areas as well as about curricular changes they are considering relevant to SKIM. (See Attachment for the programs that are covered as of January 2016.) Additionally the Committee shall develop a plan for including information about SKIM in the Undergraduate Catalog.
- 5. In reviewing these documents, the Committee's role shall be to determine whether departments are meeting the requirement, *not* to evaluate how they are doing so. The Committee shall also be asked to identify trends and to assist in providing resources for faculty through a centralized website or Blackboard shell, workshops, and/or meetings. The Committee shall report its findings to the Faculty Senate.
- 6. The Committee shall establish an implementation schedule. In order to eliminate duplication of effort and reduce faculty workload, every effort shall be made to coordinate this schedule with schedules set by Core Council, by any of the colleges, or by the university as a whole.
- 7. The Committee shall propose a long-term schedule so that by 2019-20, the year of the HLC accreditation report and visit, sufficient meaningful data will have been reported and analyzed so the University can identify where it stands with respect to its SKIM goals. The expectation is that by that time, all affected programs will have meaningful data to report regarding at least one of the SKIM areas.

Signature ((Faculty Senate President)	Date 2/22/2016
	Andrew	Wrigh	nt		

Received in chancellor's office on RECEIVED MAR 1 1 2016 (date)

Chancellor's Action: APPROVED

DISAPPROVED (reasons to be attached)

Chancellor's Signature

Date