MEMORANDUM

TO: Dorene Branson, Principal Assistant
    Faculty Senate

FROM: Jonathan Yoder, Chair, Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee

DATE: October 17, 2013

SUBJECT: Conjoint UCORE/Graduate Courses

Cc: Catalog Subcommittee, C/O Marc Evans; Academic Affairs Committee, C/O Richard Zack; Gayle Anderson; Pat Sturko, Lori Carris.

The Co-Chairs of the Faculty Senate Catalog Subcommittee submitted a request on September 13, 2013 for a Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) opinion on the appropriateness of allowing conjoint status for UCORE Capstone courses.

On Tuesday, October 17th, the Graduate Studies Committee unanimously passed the following motion:

"The GSC does not approve of conjoint undergraduate courses offered to graduate students."

As the Chair of the Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee, my interpretation of the discussion is that the GSC feels that UCORE courses are designed to be tailored sharply to undergraduates. As written in the University Common Course Proposals Requirements Version 2.0c, "Integrative capstone courses bring opportunities for integration, application, and closure to the undergraduate experience, and prepare students for post-baccalaureate work and life-long learning." As such, while such a course may provide benefits for graduate students, the committee concluded that such content would be remedial in nature relative to graduate level expectations. And, were a course to be listed as Conjoint and modified to suit graduate student involvement as required for conjoint courses, this would blur the sharp focus of UCORE Capstone courses on the undergraduate learning experience and outcomes. Due to the unique position of UCORE capstone courses in the undergraduate curriculum, the GSC feels that integrating them into conjoint arrangements is rarely if ever appropriate.

In short, the GSC basically concurs with the sentiment of the Catalog Subcommittee as outlined in their September 13 memo requesting GSC opinion on the matter. I will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

[Signature]

Jonathan Yoder