MEMO

TO: Dean Janice Blum

FR: Maria Brann, Chair; Jen Bute, DGS

Department of Communication Studies

DT: 18 May 2016

RE: Curriculum Change for MA in Applied Communication

The current requirements for the 36 credit hour MA in Applied Communication include:

- 12 credit hours of core requirements including
  - COMM C500 Advanced Communication Theory
  - COMM C501 Applied Communication Research
  - One additional research methods course from: COMM C502, COMM C530 or COMM C531
  - COMM C503 Applied Learning Project or COMM C597 Thesis
- 18 hours of electives in the Department of Communication Studies
- 6 credit hours of interdisciplinary electives outside the Department of Communication Studies

Proposed Change:

We would like to change the elective requirement from 18 credit hours inside the department and 6 credit hours outside the department to the following.

> Students must complete 24 hours of elective credit. At least 18 credit hours must be from the Department of Communication Studies. Students may, but are not required, to take up to 6 hours of elective credit from outside the Department of Communication Studies as approved by the student's advisor. Students may choose to complete all elective credit from within the Department of Communication Studies.

Rationale:

When our program began 10 years ago, we were concerned with having enough courses and faculty to offer a range of electives for our students. Since that time, our faculty expertise and numbers of courses have expanded, to the point where we can easily offer the 24 credit hours of electives. Moreover, students often request to take all their electives inside the department, allowing them to pursue multiple areas of specialization within their MA program. Giving students the option to complete all of their electives inside the department allows faculty to offer courses in their areas of expertise and gives students the chance to pursue multiple areas of communication study. Still students who wish to pursue outside electives are not prohibited from doing so.