THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number6015SDate of Senate Approval03/19/15Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 52 (MLAS) Revised:

Delete MLAS 670 and 680; Add new course, MLAS 681, Capstone Project; Change the credit hours and description of MLAS 690, Master's Thesis

Effective Date: New requirement effective in Fall 2015; deletion of MLAS 670/680 in Fall 2016

1. Delete: On page 215, the entries for MLAS 670 and 680:

670 Scholarly Inquiry Seminar (3)

This seminar provides a forum for students to develop their individual scholarly interests into a capstone MLAS project. Includes survey of techniques of inquiry in the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, as well as practical issues from finding a topic, to final presentation and defense. Students will define a topic for the project seminar, choosing a subject in which they have had at least 6 credit hours of graduate-level coursework, and begin their preliminary research. Project proposals must be approved by the project advisor, the instructor of MLAS 670, and the MLAS Director. Prerequisite: 21 hours in the MLAS Program. (Grading S/U). Spring.

680 Project Seminar (3)

Seminar dedicated to the completion of a capstone scholarly research project under the direction of a project advisor and project seminar instructor. Typically the project takes the form of a major research paper (40-50 pages), but alternatives, including creative projects in the arts or literature are permitted with the concurrence of the advisor and MLAS 670 instructor of record. Drafts are presented and final projects are defended in the seminar before the end of the semester. The final paper/project is approved by the instructor of 680, the MLAS Director, and the project advisor. Prerequisite: Successful completion of MLAS 670. (Grading S/U). Fall.

2. Add: On page 215, entry for new course, MLAS 681:

681 Capstone Project (3-6)

An independent, interdisciplinary project under the direction of a faculty supervisor. The graduate project reflects an emphasis or interest that the student has discovered in the MLAS program. The Capstone Project includes, but is not limited to, a work of written analysis, and may involve academic research, applied research or creative work. The Capstone Project is a formal process that requires the development and submission of a proposal, structured study with a faculty supervisor, and exit interview with the faculty supervisor and the MLAS advisor (who serves as the second reader of the project). The completed project is retained in the MLAS archive in Ramsey Library. (Grading S/U/IP). *Students who receive an IP grade for MLAS 681 will have two (2) additional semesters in which to complete and defend their projects.* Course may be repeated once for a total of 6 hours of credit. Fall and Spring.

Impact: MLAS 681 operationalizes the Change in Degree Requirements, as laid out in that APC document. Students will need to identify faculty to serve as primary and secondary readers of projects. Faculty and MLAS leadership currently serve in such roles.

Rationale: MLAS 681 operationalizes the Change in Degree Requirements, as laid out in that APC document. The primary and secondary reader structure for the Capstone Project ensures adequate expertise and programmatic oversight for students choosing either of these options.

3. Delete: On page 215, the entry for MLAS 690:

690 Master's Thesis (1-6)

A substantial research project and resulting original thesis, with topic chosen in consultation with the faculty member who will serve as the thesis director and approved by the Graduate Council. Thesis must be publicly defended by the candidate and accepted by the Thesis Committee and Graduate Council. Either 3 credits of MLAS 680 or 6 credits of MLAS 690 are required of all MLAS candidates. (Grading S/U/IP). *Students who receive an IP grade for MLAS 690 will have two (2) additional semesters in which to complete and defend their theses.*

Add: On page 215, in place of deleted entry:

690 Master's Thesis (3-6)

The Master's Thesis is intended for students who plan to continue their studies at the graduate level. It is a substantial academic research project with resulting original thesis. The topic is chosen in consultation with the faculty member who will serve as the thesis director, and is approved by the Graduate Council. The student must establish a Thesis Committee that consists of the thesis director, a second faculty reader, and either the MLAS Director, Associate Director, or a member of the Graduate Council. The thesis must be publicly defended by the candidate and accepted by the Thesis Committee and full Graduate Council. The completed project is retained in the MLAS archive in Ramsey Library. (Grading S/U/IP). *Students who receive an IP grade for MLAS 690 will have two (2) additional semesters in which to complete and defend their theses.* Course may be repeated once for a total of 6 hours of credit. Fall and Spring.

Impact: MLAS 690 operationalizes the Change in Degree Requirements, as laid out in that APC document. Students will need to identify faculty to serve on Thesis committees. Faculty and MLAS leadership currently serve in such roles.

Rationale: MLAS 690 operationalizes the Change in Degree Requirements, as laid out in that APC document. Changing requirements of MLAS 690 to 3-6 credit hours allows students the option to take the course as a full-time enrollment for a single semester, and therefore still remain eligible for financial aid. Students who wish to take a seminar and a 3-credit option for this course in a single semester may also do so. The committee structure for the Thesis ensures adequate expertise and programmatic oversight for students choosing either of these options.