Academic Governing Council
Decision Form

This form is to be used when the Academic Governing Council makes a decision on an issue. This form is sent to the Provost.

Decision:

The AGC approved the following policies regarding Seminar Courses:

Seminar Definition: A seminar course focuses on a topic that is not included and/or studied in depth in the discipline’s regular course offerings. In a seminar course, a group of students work with a faculty member to study this special topic. A seminar course topic is not intended to become a regular course in a curriculum. The purpose is to provide a unique opportunity for a group of students and a faculty member to explore a special or new topic. The topics of seminar courses in a discipline will typically not be routinely repeated.

Policy Distinguishing a New Course from a Seminar: If a new course is intended to become part of the regular curriculum, it is not a Seminar course, and it needs to be fully developed using the New Course Approval Process. A course intended to be offered periodically as an enhancement to the curriculum should be developed as a new course, unless the content of the course will be substantially different each time it is offered.

Policy on Numbering of Seminar Courses: Seminar courses are designated by the following numbers: 291 (one credit hour seminar), 292 (two credit hour seminar), 293 (three credit hour seminar), 294 (four credit hour seminar). The particular topic of the Seminar must be included in the Seminar title.

Policy on Limits for Students: Students may not use more than twelve (12) credits of a combination of Seminar and Independent Study courses toward the fulfillment of the requirements for any associate’s degree. Further, no more than two (2) credits of the twelve may be in Independent Study courses. Students also should be aware that Seminar and Independent Study courses may not be accepted by a transfer college.

Rationale:

Before this definition was formulated, the seminar designation was being used as a means to pilot new courses and to avoid the New Course Approval Process.

Supporting Data:

The committee analyzed past use of the seminar course designation, as well as varying definitions of the term “seminar” in higher education in general and at GRCC in particular.
Implications for Action:

The College will now have the means to offer courses in special topics but also to ensure the quality of all its curricula.

Evaluation Plan:

This policy should be reviewed in three years (Winter 2015).

Date of Decision by AGC:

January 10, 2012

Response from Provost:

The Provost endorses this decision by the AGC.