Resolution to Create an Online Alternative to the Rowan Core Public Speaking Requirement

The sudden shift to online classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic has created a problem for Rowan Core. Students need to take *Public Speaking* to complete their Rowan Core Communicative Literacy requirement, but this course is not available online. Moreover, the Department of Communication Studies is opposed to developing an online version of *Public Speaking* for pedagogical reasons. Thus, students have no way to complete this requirement in Summer 2020, when all Rowan courses will be offered online—which could lead to a delay in graduation. This is likely to be a problem in future semesters as well: either if Rowan is forced to extend the shutdown of its campuses; or if certain students are forced by personal circumstances to take only online courses. This resolution enacts both a permanent and a short-term solution to the above problem.

Permanent Solution

A new, online *Digital Presentations* course will be created. This course will be added to all program guides as an alternative to *Public Speaking*. So, the current Communicative Literacy requirement:

> *College Comp I + College Comp II + Public Speaking*

will be replaced with the following:

> *College Comp I + College Comp II + (Public Speaking or Digital Presentations)*.

Short-Term Solution

Because it will take time to develop the new *Digital Presentations* course, a short-term solution covering the next few semesters is needed. The course that is already available online and that best fulfills the Rowan Core role of *Public Speaking* is *CMS 04220: Interpersonal Communication*. Starting in Summer 2020—and continuing until *Digital Presentations* is ready for a full roll out— any student who takes *Interpersonal Communication* will satisfy the Rowan Core *Public Speaking* component of the Communicative Literacy requirement.

Timeline for Policy Changes

The specific policies that will allow us to carry out both the permanent and short-term solutions are laid out in the following timeline:

SUMMER 2020

- Students taking *Interpersonal Communication* during this semester will satisfy the Rowan Core *Public Speaking* requirement.
- Begin development of the online *Digital Presentations* course.

FALL 2020
- Students taking *Interpersonal Communication* during this semester will satisfy the Rowan Core *Public Speaking* requirement.
- The Department of Communication Studies will submit a curriculum proposal (including relevant Rowan Core materials) for the new *Digital Presentations* course.
- The Curriculum Committee and the Provost's Office will fast-track the review of this proposal in time for a Spring 2021 launch.
    - Note: in order for the course to run in Spring 2021, the new *Digital Presentations* course will need to be sent to the Registrar and set up in our data systems (for faculty scheduling and student registration) before the curriculum proposal is officially approved. By this resolution, the Senate approves the above departure from the regular curricular review process.

SPRING 2021
- All undergraduate program guides will be revised to add *Digital Presentations* as an alternative to the *Public Speaking* component of the Rowan Core Communicative Literacy requirement. (These updates are here approved by the Senate and will not require separate curriculum proposals.)
- The Department of Communication Studies will offer a few sections of *Digital Presentations* to pilot the new course. Students who take the course in or after this semester will satisfy the relevant component of the revised Rowan Core Communicative Literacy requirement.
- Students taking *Interpersonal Communication* during this semester will still satisfy the Rowan Core *Public Speaking* requirement.

FALL 2021
- The Department of Communication Studies will do a full roll-out of *Digital Communications*, with many sections offered.
- Students who take *Interpersonal Communication* in or after this semester will not fulfill the Rowan Core *Public Speaking* requirement.

Through this resolution, the Senate approves all policies in the above timeline.