

Background on Interim Credit Hour Policy Proposal for AY 2012/2013

Submitted by Dan Melzer, Chair, Curriculum Policies Committee

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Effective July 2011, WASC is requiring institutions to comply with the federal definition of a credit hour (see attached document "Credit Hour Policy WASC"). The CSU Chancellor's Office, in a memo dated October 4, 2011, has defined the credit hour for all CSUs using the language of the federal definition (see attached document "Credit Hour CSU Definition"). The Chancellor's Office has asked campuses to adopt the credit hour policy and consider a process for monitoring the credit hour definition.

The attached Interim Credit Hour Policy Proposal for AY2012/2013 represents a basic credit hour definition created by the Curriculum Policies Committee (CPC). The interim policy uses language from the Chancellor's Office memo with four revisions/additions:

- A credit hour is defined as 50 minutes instead of one hour to reflect the common course periods at Sacramento State.
- A credit is hour is defined as "not less than and does not significantly exceed" rather than just "not less than" in order to address situations where the work of a credit hour is exceeding the definition of a credit hour.
- E-learning is cited in the policy.
- Included is an initial plan for monitoring the credit hour policy and the process CPC will engage in to begin to create a more detailed policy and a more detailed plan for monitoring the credit hour.

In Fall 2012, the CPC will survey instructors and students and consult with deans, college curriculum committees, the Curriculum Subcommittee, and the Graduate Studies Policies Committee to create a more detailed set of guidelines for the various types of courses we offer (labs, internships, studio work, etc.) and to create a more detailed process for monitoring the credit hour definition.

The CPC is therefore asking the Senate to adopt the attached Interim Credit Hour Policy for AY 2012/2013. The CPC will bring a more detailed credit hour definition policy with a statement about monitoring the policy to the Senate in Spring 2013 which would replace the policy below. We are making this request because we feel it is important to show WASC that we are making a good-faith effort to put a credit hour policy in place, and the adoption of the interim policy for AY 2012/2013 will allow us to have a policy in place but also give us time to create a more detailed version of the policy.