Attachment F

Faculty Senate Agenda

December 1, 2011

BACKGROUND.

In August 2011, Executive Committee asked the Curriculum Policies Committee to examine the current Sacramento State policy regarding upper division major unit requirements for the BS and BA degrees on this campus, in the context of Title V requirements. The issue arose in response to difficulties faced by the Biology Department during revisions to curriculum and a proposal for a new BS concentration. Sound curriculum dictated a progression in course work that required a large number of lower division science requirements in preparation for more complex upper division work. Structuring the curriculum in this way, however, was not allowed under present Sacramento State policy even though the desired number of upper and lower division units fell well within Title V requirements. Structuring the program in a way that faculty thought was both rigorous and pedagogically sound would require an exemption to the upper division unit limitation granted only upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate's Curriculum Committee and approval of the school dean and the Vice President, Academic Affairs.

CPC therefore looked at this issue in a broader context by examining Sacramento State requirements and Title V requirements for both BA and BS degrees and questioning these requirements in the light of sound curriculum development and ownership of curriculum as close as possible to the department level.

CPC Findings:

*1. Requirements for majors under Title V*

BA: minimum of 24 semester units in the major with at least 12 semester units at upper division.

BS: minimum of 36 semester units in the major with at least 18 semester units at upper division.

The maximum number of units will be determined by the campus.

2. *Requirements for majors at Sacramento State*

Major requirements vary from a minimum of 31 units to a maximum of 108 units.

BA: minimum of 24 upper division units

BS: minimum of 36 upper division units.

3. *The history* of this Sacramento State policy dates back to 1987 and policy has not been changed since that time. CPC could not find any record of why we had chosen to double the number of upper division units as required by Title V.

4. *CSU campuses with the same policy language as Sacramento State*:

San Diego State

CSU Channel Island

 *CSU campuses that do not have requirements beyond Title V*:

CSU Chico

Humboldt State

Cal Poly Pomona

San Marcos

CSU Monterey Bay

Cal Maritime

CSU Fullerton

Spokespeople from a number of these campuses stated that although their campus policy did not go beyond Title V, many or most of their majors required more than the minimum number of upper division units required under Title V.

CPC could not find information for every CSU campus, but we felt we had a good representative sample.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on a review of current Sacramento State policy, Title V and policy documents from other CSU campuses, as well as direct discussions with other Sacramento State faculty, the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and staff and faculty from other CSU campuses, the Curriculum Policies Committee recommends changing current policy to align with the requirements of Title V.

In making this recommendation CPC was very aware of the issue of a perceived “watering down” of curriculum requirements. In reviewing other campuses that used Title V minimum requirements, it could be seen that this had not occurred on other campuses in that the majority of majors had requirements beyond the minimum requirements of Title V. Committee members were in unanimous agreement that this change in Sacramento State policy would give greater freedom to departments to interpret their curriculum needs based on sound pedagogy. We could see no reason to choose an arbitrary number of units somewhere between Title V and current Sacramento State requirements as we could find no credible data to support such a number for the wide array of majors offered. There is no requirement in the proposed language for any program to use only the minimum number of upper division units for their major.

Proposed Policy Change

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
|  |

 |
|

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |
| --- |
| **Degree Programs**  |
| Policy Administrator: Vice President for Academic Affairs Authority:Effective Date: July 1, 1987 Updated:Index Cross-References: Policy File Number: UMD03050.htm |

 |
| **DEGREE PROGRAMS**  |

 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Current Policy** | **Proposed Policy** |
| Bachelor of Arts Degree majors require a minimum of 24 upper division units and are limited to 48 units in the major field, including lower division prerequisites.  The comprehensive liberal studies degree program which includes both major and general education requirements is currently exempt from the 48 unit limitation.  Exemptions to the unit limitation are granted only upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate's Curriculum Committee and approval of the school dean and the Vice President, Academic Affairs. | **Bachelor of Arts Degree majors require a minimum of 24 semester units in the major with at least 12 units at upper division.** Bachelor of Arts Degree majors are limited to 48 units in the major field, including lower division prerequisites.  The comprehensive liberal studies degree program which includes both major and general education requirements is currently exempt from the 48 unit limitation.  Exemptions to the unit limitation are granted only upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate's Curriculum Committee and approval of the school dean and the Vice President, Academic Affairs. |
| The Bachelor of Science Degree has the same primary objectives as the Bachelor of Arts Degree but is grounded in scientific methodology and emphasizes applications in a wide range of technical and professional fields.  Bachelor of Science majors require a minimum of 36 upper division units, and are limited to no more than one half the total degree unit requirements in the major field, inclusive of both lower and upper division units, but exclusive of co-requisite requirements.  Exemptions to the unit limitation of Bachelor of Science programs are made in the same fashion indicated for Bachelor of Arts programs.  | The Bachelor of Science Degree has the same primary objectives as the Bachelor of Arts Degree but is grounded in scientific methodology and emphasizes applications in a wide range of technical and professional fields.**Bachelor of Science majors require a minimum of 36 semester units in the major with at least 18 semester units at upper division,** and are limited to no more than one half the total degree unit requirements in the major field, inclusive of both lower and upper division units, but exclusive of co-requisite requirements.  Exemptions to the unit limitation of Bachelor of Science programs are made in the same fashion indicated for Bachelor of Arts programs. |