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TO: Larry Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Simon Bott
Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee

SUBJECT **Subcommittee Report November 19th, 2008**

DATE: November 12th, 2008

The committee met on November 12th 5th Members participating in the discussions (including other email communication): Amanda Baumle, William Munson, Charles Peters, Kevin Simon, Rebecca Achée Thornton, Dana Wierzbicki and Simon Bott. Marsha Daly and Larry Williams were present as guests.

The following documents and other issues were discussed:

UC 9755 08S Calculation of GPA in Major and Minor Recommend rejection - **DISAPPROVED 11/19/08**

UC 9796 08F Calculation of GPA in Major Recommend approval - **APPROVED 11/19/08**

Calculation of GPA in Major and Minor

INTRODUCTION

There was some discussion at the last UC meeting about exactly what these calculations entailed, so **UC 9796 08F** and **UC 9755 08S** were returned to the committee with a larger mandate to examine the issue.

Although the catalog is on-line, I will reference page numbers associated with the last hard copy, 2005-2007.

Currently, the language at issue is on page 72 (for major):

5. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum cumulative grade point average in courses attempted in the major at the university.

And page 73 (for minor):

4. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum cumulative grade point average in courses attempted in the minor at the university.

Different departments and colleges have different ways of interpreting these rather vague statements. The default is taken as using EVERY class in a given major subject. There are, however, multiple examples in the catalog of stated exceptions. Two examples will suffice:

POLITICAL SCIENCE (pp. 244, 245)

Requirements for the major and minor explicitly EXCLUDE POLS 1336 and 1337. These grades are not, therefore, included in the GPA calculations.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING PROGRAMS (p. 153)

Here, there is a statement that explicitly excludes classes from the GPA calculation:

The major grade point average is calculated using all ECE courses except for ECE 1121 and ECE 3336.

Then there is another statement that ADDS courses to be considered that are NOT ECE:

In addition, for computing engineering majors only, the major grade point average will also include all COSC courses that could be applied to the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering degree.

PROPOSED ACTION

First of all, the subcommittee feels that the general requirements need to be made more specific. The proposed additional catalog language (and friendly amendments are welcome) would be:

code 5. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum cumulative grade point average in courses with the four letter abbreviation of the major attempted at the university. Exceptions to this policy may be found in the requirements of specific majors. subject

code 4. Students must earn a 2.00 minimum cumulative grade point average in courses with the four letter abbreviation of the minor attempted at the university. Exceptions to this policy may be found in the requirements of specific minors. subject

We welcome and encourage departments to consider how their major descriptions may or need to be changed within these more specific rules.

Given the precedents set in the catalog, therefore, the subcommittee sees no reason NOT to approve:

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UC 9796 08F Calculation of GPA in Major – Elimination of two introductory courses and one misleadingly-rubriced (is this even a word?) course from GPA calculations.

The proposal in the document is suitably written for inclusion in the catalog (probably on p. 110). However, the wording of the first sentence and a half (up to, “following exceptions”) should be changed to be the same as the accepted language above.

The other document associated with this discussion, **UC 9755 08S Calculation of GPA in Major and Minor** is still unacceptable to the committee, as it implicitly proposes that only the best grade in a particular class be included.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text]