

RECEIVED DEC 02 2008  


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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **Calculation of GPA in Major and Minor**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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 would be:

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

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

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