

<p style="text-align: center;">Undergraduate Studies Council Charge regarding Admissions and Enrollment Standards</p>

Preamble

As the *Western News* reported on 4 May 2000, the University closed freshmen admissions for the second year in a row, due to a record number of applicants (p. 1). In the words of former President Floyd, "the University continues to enjoy a superb and growing reputation among students and their parents, and they are responding to that reputation in record numbers" (*Western News*, 4 May 2000, p. 1). In anticipation of this continuing trend, the University must take great care in accepting or denying potential students.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Undergraduate Studies Council with the ongoing task of studying the University's admissions standards and recommending a course of action for updating or revising the standards to handle the limitations of admissions. In considering the question of how incoming students should be assessed, the council is advised to consider, but not limit its deliberations to, the following questions:

- What are the future implications of increased enrollments for admission standards?
- How should the University approach the learning gap in applicants (i.e., minimum high school graduation requirements not meeting college-level entrance requirements)?
- What would we like the profile of the University to be in the future?

The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please plan to report to the Faculty Senate at each November meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Studies Council & Undergraduate Studies Council Charge to Review the Framework for Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Program Planning Document</p>
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Preamble

In winter semester 2002, the administration introduced a document titled "Framework for Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Program Planning." The document had been introduced to the Faculty Senate and several of its councils as an informational item. However, neither the Senate nor its councils were asked to formally review or comment on the document and its necessity, feasibility, or potential effects.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Councils with the task of reviewing the program planning document and presenting a formal recommendation for acceptance, modification, or non-acceptance. The councils are advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report and/or recommendation to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **October 2004** meeting.

Undergraduate Studies Council
Charge regarding General Education Area VII,
Natural Science and Technology: Applications and Implications

Preamble

When the current general education policy was implemented in fall 1996, Area VII, Natural Science and Technology, was intended to complement Area VI, Natural Sciences with Laboratory. Area VI put natural science in the context of its own choosing, a laboratory where students see that science is a hands-on process of interacting with nature, not just the product written in a book. Although there were high hopes for the laboratory experience, there was also the realization that science and technology could also be taught in a way that helps students understand the many important issues of our times that involve scientific knowledge. Thus, Area VII was developed.

With the rapid growth and development of technology over the past several years, it is time to re-examine the University's general education technology requirement. As technology continues to pervade our everyday lives, it may be necessary to create a general education requirement specifically geared toward technology.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Undergraduate Studies Council with the task of revisiting Areas VI and VII of the general education policy, and developing any recommendations to update or revise the policy to meet today's technology standards. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 October 2004** for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **November 2004** meeting.

Graduate Studies Council & Undergraduate Studies Council Charge regarding Accelerated Master's Programs

Preamble

As undergraduate degree programs become more complex, an increasing number of programs are requiring more than four academic years for completion. Students are often required to attend classes in summer sessions, or enroll for a fifth year of instruction. In addition, many undergraduate students are interested in graduate courses that would enhance their undergraduate education. However, due to undergraduate classification, they are limited to 500-level courses, which many departments have eliminated. Although the University allows dual undergraduate and graduate enrollment at the senior level, a greater number of students may benefit if they were able to plan a program in which they could obtain both a bachelor's and a master's degree concurrently.

Concurrent degree programs have proven to enhance a student's education, while increasing opportunities for research and job placement. The advanced education in a concurrent degree program also has been proven to increase performance on state licensing exams, such as the CPA or state bar exams. The University also may benefit in enticing its top students to obtain their master's degrees and keeping them at the University for an additional year – a year they may have otherwise spent finishing their bachelor's degrees.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies Councils with the task of developing a recommendation regarding the establishment of accelerated master's degree programs. The councils are advised to consider, but not limit deliberations, to the following questions:

- What departments are best suited to establish concurrent programs?
- What would the minimum admission requirements be for the programs?
- What tuition rate would be applicable – undergraduate or graduate?
- What research opportunities are available for these programs?
- What are the potential employment benefits for students?

The councils also are advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 October 2003**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **November 2003** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Undergraduate Studies Council Charge regarding Dean's List</p>
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Preamble

Currently, the University Dean's List is only published during fall and spring semesters, and this policy dates back more than 50 years. The Senate's records do not stipulate the reasons for only creating official lists during fall and spring. However, it may have been due to the lack of regular enrolled students and the proliferation of guest students from other universities and colleges. The lack of a dean's list during the summer sessions has been questioned by students and their parents.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Undergraduate Studies Council with the task of reviewing the Dean's List policy and making recommendations to leave as is or revise it. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations for change or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your final report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 October 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **November 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Undergraduate Studies Council Charge regarding Graduation Requirements</p>

Preamble

Currently, in order to receive a baccalaureate degree from the University, a student “must present a minimum of 30 hours through Western Michigan University. Ten of the last 30 hours must be taken through Western Michigan University” (*Undergraduate Catalog*, p. 20). Some faculty have questioned the awarding of degrees to student who have completed only 25% of their credits at WMU. In addition, there are other graduation requirements that need to be updated.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Undergraduate Studies Council with the task of reviewing the graduation requirements for a bachelor’s degree and making recommendations to leave as is or update the policies. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations for change or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your final report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 October 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **November 2004** meeting.

Undergraduate Studies Council Charge regarding Faculty Specialists

Preamble

According to a recent study by the Coalition on the Academic Workforce, permanent full-time faculty members are a minority in many academic departments. "In seven of the nine disciplines surveyed in the fall 1999 study, traditional full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty accounted for less than half of the instructional staff in the responding departments and programs... At a time when access to a college education is widely recognized as important for most if not all high school graduates, the disappearance of a critical mass of permanent, full-time teacher-scholars raises questions about the ability of colleges and universities to deliver the kind of education previous generations of students received" (www.theaha.org/caw/pressrelease.htm).

On the other hand, WMU has been a national leader in recognizing the importance of long-term, non-tenure-track faculty and their positive contributions to the education of our undergraduates. However, the University needs to be able to express these positive contributions in not only qualitative but quantitative measures, as well.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Undergraduate Studies Council with the task of studying the use of faculty specialists, as well as the use of part-time instructors and adjunct faculty, and the effects they have on the quality of undergraduate education. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 October 2005**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **November 2005** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Councils Charge regarding University Honor Code</p>

Preamble

As faculty, we seek an environment in which members of a diverse student body can live together, interact, and learn from one another in ways that protect both personal freedom and community standards. One tool to help accomplish this might be the establishment of a University honor code, which would hold students accountable for their actions and words, both in the classroom and outside of it. By encouraging respectful conduct, we can create an atmosphere conducive to learning and growing.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Councils with the task of considering the potential effectiveness of an honor code. If the councils find that a code should be developed and implemented, then they should propose the text for the code. The councils are advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations for change or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your final report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2006**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **October 2006** meeting.