

Minutes
COAS Requirements Task Force Committee
January 29, 2009

Members Present: A. Argast, K. Bordens, L. Corbin, P. Dragnev, R. Duchovic, R. Hile, B. Kingsbury (chair), M. Jordan, L. Hess, A. Livschiz, I. Mallin, D. Moore, M. Wolf, and H. McDonald-Lara.

The meeting began at 12:00.

We first took up how to respond to concerns raised by Psychology that the document avoid specific, and possibly incorrect, advising recommendations. Ken Bordens presented the concerns. We decided place generic advice to speak to an advisor in several places. The first location was in the Requirements preamble. The other two spots were in #4 of the BA core requirements to help students get into the right math, and in Part “B: Foreign Language” to ensure that they took the right language.

We then got back into BS requirements. We considered the 2.0 GPA within the major requirement, and resolved that we were satisfied with the requirement as it was for the BS, but wished that it be the same for the BA. Currently the BA requirement is essentially a 1.7 or better for all courses in the major, given the language “C or better”. We therefore went back and replaced the requirement with the same language as in the BS requirement.

Discussion about differences between BA and BS requirements focused on breadth versus depth within the limitations of what could be achieved in four years. This discussion turned to the BS in teaching degrees offered in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, none of which require foreign language. The consensus was that this exemption was historical to help alleviate the overall credit requirements caused by both discipline and teaching requirements. The committee asked Bruce to inquire of the chairs of the departments offering these degrees as to the rationale for the exemption and the potential consequences of removing it.

Peter Dragnev pointed out that we should also consider the “Additional Information for Bachelor’s Degrees, currently on page 22 of the Bulletin.

Our next meeting will be noon February 12, 2009 in SB 176. We will continue looking at BS requirements. Bruce encouraged the group to review materials for the upcoming COAS Faculty Assembly on Monday, as progress and activities by the Task Force would be on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15.