REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The proposal to create a new Research Emphasis in the Comprehensive Major: Chemistry, Liberal Arts, which will result in the elimination of the current 100-005 program, is important because it allows research active students to substitute independent study (Chem 397 and Chem 497) for a traditional advanced laboratory course (such as Chem 420 or Chem 438). Students participating in Chem 397 and 497 would be exposed to experimental techniques and intensive writing exercises currently provided in an advanced laboratory course, making the advanced laboratory course redundant. The Research Emphasis provides students, especially those who are interested in a research career, with a streamlined pathway to a comprehensive major that recognizes the rigor of their undergraduate research experiences.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. This research emphasis would provide credit towards the major for rigorous research labs.
2. Faculty engaged in research with undergraduates will be able to count this as part of teaching load with the understanding that retention issues are addressed in earlier courses in Chemistry, as per an agreement with the Provost's office. Beyond this no new resources are needed.
3. This emphasis is not ACS certified, however, this does not affect student success in admission to graduate school.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. This research emphasis would allow for more depth in the labs.
2. This research emphasis would be perceived favorably by graduate schools.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

Create a new emphasis—Comprehensive Major: Chemistry, Research Emphasis, Liberal Arts; replace the current 100-005 code for the Comprehensive Major: Chemistry, Liberal Arts.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee:

by a vote of _8___ for to _0___ against on ___October 9, 2012________

Recommends that a new emphasis—Comprehensive Major: Chemistry, Research Emphasis, Liberal Arts—be created and that the current 100-005 code for the Comprehensive Major: Chemistry, Liberal Arts be replaced.

Implementation Date: Upon next catalog publication

Signed: ____Jean A. Pratt________________________
   Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office