APC: Chemistry A.C.S.

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 three new A.C.S. certified emphases (General Emphasis, Materials Science Emphasis, and Biochemistry Emphasis) within the A.C.S. Comprehensive Major umbrella is important because it provides students with additional options to obtain an A.C.S. certified degree. We currently have only a handful of students complete the A.C.S. Comprehensive Major (100-006) each year. The current 100-006 program is a highly prescriptive pathway that is difficult to complete in a timely manner and does not allow students to tailor their academic plan to their career goals. In contrast, the three proposed emphases are more flexible (while still meeting ACS-CPT guidelines) and correspond to particularly attractive areas of chemistry and career options. Moreover, recipients of A.C.S. certified degrees are recognized as having received an extra level of laboratory instruction and content breadth that is valued within the chemical community. In order for our students to remain competitive with graduates from other institutions, our students need more opportunities to complete an A.C.S. certified major. The proposed emphases will provide those opportunities. If approved, the three emphases will result in the elimination of the current 100-006 program.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. APC discussed the issues introduced above by the Chemistry chair.
2. The American Chemical Society (A.C.S.) requires 420 hours in labs.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Splitting the major into three emphases gives students more choices of upper-level labs. It changes the makeup of the students in those labs.
2. The three emphases are better aligned with different career tracks.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:

Create three new A.C.S. certified emphases (General Emphasis, Materials Science Emphasis, and Biochemistry Emphasis) within the A.C.S. Comprehensive Major in Chemistry; replace the current 100-006 code for the Comprehensive Major: Chemistry, A.C.S. with 100-XXX codes for each Chemistry A.C.S. emphasis.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee:

by a vote of _8_ for to _0_ against on __October 9, 2012________

Recommends that three new A.C.S. certified emphases (General Emphasis, Materials Science Emphasis, and Biochemistry Emphasis) be created within the A.C.S. Comprehensive Chemistry Major and that the current 100-006 code for the Comprehensive Major: Chemistry, A.C.S. be replaced with 100-XXX codes for each Chemistry A.C.S. emphasis.

Implementation Date: Upon next catalog publication

Signed: ___Jean A. Pratt________________________
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office