REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

Related to liberal education reform are discussions of related university requirements. Two such requirements are the required minor and associated “60 unique credits” rule, as articulated on page 45 of the 2012-2013 Undergraduate Catalog:

Each candidate for a baccalaureate degree must present at minimum 60 unique* credits earned in either of the following ways:

• One standard major of at least 36 semester credits plus one minor of at least 24 semester credits, or
• One comprehensive major of at least 60 semester credits (no minor required)

All four colleges were asked to provide input related to the possibility of removing the required minor as a university requirement. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is likely the most impacted by this decision. Therefore, the CAS chairs, with input from their faculty, discussed the related issues of the required minor and the 60-credit rule. The recommendation by the CAS chairs was to remove the 60-credit rule, as indicated in the “Minor Survey.pdf” support material.

Points Discussed by Committee:

The CAS chairs, who represent the most relevant stakeholder in this issue, overwhelmingly favored eliminating the 60-credit rule. Interim Dean David Baker stated that the recommendation from the CAS chairs was to eliminate the 60-credit rule.

Pros of Recommendation:

• Removing the 60-credit rule would provide more flexibility to students who, working with their advisors, could tailor their education appropriate to their career choice.
• The 60-credit rule has to be manually checked by the advisors and the Registrar’s Office—time better spent advising students.

Cons of Recommendation: None discussed.

None discussed.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation: Remove the 60-credit rule from the baccalaureate degree requirements.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,
by a vote of __8__ for to __0__ against on January 29, 2013

recommends that the 60-credit rule be removed from the baccalaureate degree requirements.

Corresponding changes to the Undergraduate Catalog (references are to 2012-2013 edition) follow:

- Page 38: *Major-minor Concentration—minimum unique credit requirement……………………………………………..60 credits. BE REMOVED

- Page 45: Each candidate for a baccalaureate degree must present at minimum 60 unique* credits earned in either of the following ways:
BE CHANGED TO
Each candidate for a baccalaureate degree must present one of the following:

- Page 45: When completing two programs (i.e., two majors or a major-minor combination), a student must earn at least 60 unique credits between the two programs. BE REMOVED

- Page 45: When an overlap exists between two majors, or between a major and minor, additional credits must be earned in the major and/or minor if needed to meet the required total of 60 unique credits.
  *To be considered unique, a credit may be counted only once in the 60-unique-credit total required in any major-major or major-minor combination. BE REMOVED

Implementation* Date: Publication in 2014-2015 Catalogue; * may be applied to anyone applying for graduation from Chancellor approval forward.

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office