REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
Under the current General Education system, each student pursuing a baccalaureate degree must earn one credit of physical activity. Insufficient courses exist to enable students to meet this university requirement and graduate in a timely manner. Marching Band and Dance classes have been recommended by the College of Education and Human Sciences and further approved by the Chair of the Department of Music and Theatre Arts to meet the Physical Activity University requirement.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Physical activity was not included in the Liberal Education framework effective Fall 2016.
2. Insufficient courses exist to meet the current student demand for physical activity courses.
3. Marching Band currently has 290 students enrolled. Approximately 140 freshman enrolled this year.
4. DNCE 114, 116, 314, and 316 are no longer required for the Dance minor due to limited Dance faculty, so they are not currently offered. Only about 70 students were enrolled in the Dance courses. Some of those enrollments were likely the same students.
5. We currently have a backlog of about 4200 students who need the Physical Activity credit in order to graduate. Most of these students are juniors and seniors who could not get into the courses before. Anecdotal evidence exists demonstrating students having to stay an additional semester to fill this requirement.
6. The backlog that started to build when we were better staffed will only increase with the current staffing shortages. During the best of times, the College of Education and Human Sciences was able to provide approximately 700-800 seats in courses satisfying the Physical Activity requirement. The Kinesiology department lost 3 FTE who taught Physical Activity courses.
7. Approving these courses helps to solve the backlog problem exacerbated by the staff reduction, but it doesn’t fully solve the problem. Other options are waiving or substituting the requirement on a case-by-case basis—but those options tend to introduce inequities.
8. The Registrar’s Office indicated that coding the system to count these courses as meeting the University requirement for Physical Activity would take only about 1 day, so implementing this policy Fall 2015 is feasible.
9. The Registrar’s Office can extend implementation of this policy retroactively for 7 years, the duration for which they maintain Degree Audits.
10. These courses fall under the exception to the current policy of allowing only one credit of physical activity to count toward the minimum total of 120 credits. For example, Dance majors could count both DNCE 110 and DNCE 112 toward the 120 credits.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Students in these courses will be able to satisfy the physical activity requirement as part of their current load.
2. Graduation for students in these courses will not be delayed due to insufficient availability of physical activity courses.

Cons of Recommendation: Although recognizing these courses as satisfying the Physical Activity requirement will help a relatively small number of students, it doesn’t come close to addressing the current backlog of 4200 students needing this requirement.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: one (1) day of coding in the Registrar’s Office

Committee Recommendation:
1. Include MUSI 183, DNCE 110, DNCE 112, DNCE 114, DNCE 116, DNCE 310, DNCE 312, DNCE 314, and DNCE 316 as courses which may be used to satisfy the physical activity requirement;
2. Exempt these courses from the rule that only 1 credit can count toward the minimum 120-credit graduation requirement;
3. Implement this policy Fall 2015 and retroactively for 7 catalog years.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _9_ in favor and _0_ against on September 22, 2015 recommends that

1. MUSI 183, DNCE 110, DNCE 112, DNCE 114, DNCE 116, DNCE 310, DNCE 312, DNCE 314, and DNCE 316 be listed as courses which may be used to satisfy the physical activity requirement and page 47 of the Undergraduate Catalog be updated accordingly.
2. These courses be exempted from the rule that only 1 credit can count toward the minimum 120-credit graduation requirement; and that
3. This policy be implemented Fall 2015 and retroactively for 7 catalog years.

- Recommended changes to be made to page 47 of the Undergraduate Catalog.

Implementation Date: 2015-2016 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt______
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office