REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

The Liberal Education program does not include Wellness and Physical Activity requirements. Embedded within the Wellness/Physical Activity requirements was a stipulation that only one credit of physical activity and no more than four credits of activity coursework could count toward the minimum 120 credits necessary for graduation. The “Wellness Requirement” text (see below) will be removed from the 2016-2017 Undergraduate Catalog, thereby effectively removing the restrictions on how many physical activity courses that a student could take and count toward the 120-credit requirement. Doing so would seem to be contrary to the original intent of the Catalog text to ensure that students were taking courses that contributed to a degree (while simultaneously being exposed to the benefits of physical activity). The Undergraduate Catalog also includes related activity/physical activity text in the “Activity Credit” section (see below). In an effort to honor the intent of the original Catalog text while simultaneously enabling our student performers to receive limited credit for courses designated as activity courses, we propose the following revision to the “Activity Credit” section published on pages 50-51 of the 2015-16 Undergraduate Catalog:

**Activity Credit** (band, chorus, drama, physical activity, etc.). Students may count toward graduation no more than four credits earned in any single activity course or program prefix and no more than 12 credits resulting from any combination of activity courses unrelated to their program of study.

**Other Restricted Credits.** For other University restrictions, see the following: Cooperative Education; Credit by Examination; Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Registration; Transfer of Credits. College or departmental restrictions may also be placed on Independent Study (399-499 courses), Directed Study (395-495), and other types of credits.

Commented [JP1]: One recommendation is to change the heading to “Activity and Physical Activity Credit (band, chorus, drama, physical activity, etc.)”

Commented [JP2]: Do we need to distinguish between physical activity and activity here?

Commented [JP3]: Should we strike this clause? Would the “or program prefix” and “unrelated to their program of study” clauses accommodate both athletes and performers?

2015-16 Undergraduate Catalog pages 47: the entire block of text below—and the list of Wellness courses—is scheduled to be removed as part of the liberal education reform that eliminated the Wellness/Physical Activity requirements.

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WELLNESS REQUIREMENT
All candidates for the baccalaureate degree must satisfactorily complete one semester credit in wellness theory courses and one semester credit in physical activity courses. The requirement is designed to provide students with a comprehensive exposure to wellness. Courses numbered Kins 101-184 may be used to satisfy the physical activity requirement. The courses which satisfy the wellness theory requirement are listed below. Kins 186 satisfies both the physical activity and wellness theory requirement.

The one required credit in physical activity courses is counted in the minimum total of 120 credits for graduation. Additional credits may be earned in physical activity courses but may not be counted toward the minimum total of 120 credits for graduation (see Kinesiology and Athletics for exceptions).

The Department of Kinesiology and Athletics provides adaptations in physical activity courses for students who have a medical excuse from a physician and approval of the Student Health Service. Students who have completed basic training/boot camp for the military will be awarded one credit of physical activity. Evidence
Activity Credits

should be provided through presentation of military identification, a transcript from the American Council on Education (ACE) Registry showing completion of the Basic Combat Training Course, or discharge papers (D. D. 214) to the Registrar’s Office. The completion of four semesters of ROTC courses (MSL 101, MSL 102, MSL 201, and MSL 202) satisfies the physical activity university graduation requirement. [A list of Wellness courses is listed below this text in the Undergraduate Catalog.]

2015-16 Undergraduate Catalog pages 50-51: the text below is currently retained in the Undergraduate Catalog and needs updated for the 2016-2017 Catalog.

Activity Credit (band, chorus, drama, etc.). Students may count toward graduation no more than four credits earned in any single activity course, and no more than 12 credits resulting from any combination of activity courses (excluding kinesiology activity courses). Students may count toward graduation no more than one credit of physical activity courses (see Wellness Requirement).

Other Restricted Credits. For other University restrictions, see the following: Cooperative Education; Credit by Examination; Wellness Requirement (physical activity courses); Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Registration; Transfer of Credits. College or departmental restrictions may also be placed on Independent Study (399-499 courses), Directed Study (395-495), and other types of credits.

Points Discussed by Committee: (These points were discussed in 2013 when this issue came up before Liberal Education was approved. They are provided here for APC discussion only and will be updated to reflect our 2016 discussion before we move this proposal to University Senate.)

1. The department of Kinesiology wants to have pedagogy and content within any physical activity courses. Hybrid classes, using content from both wellness and physical activity could be created and deployed.

2. A maximum of 1 credit seems insufficient, especially given the health benefits associated with more activity.

3. Removing any limit would not be received positively by members of the university or community. Marching Band can be repeated for up to 7 credits; Orchestra and choirs are repeatable up to 4 credits.

4. The College of Education and Human Sciences and the Department of Kinesiology both support a limit of 4 credits. The Student Senate supports raising the limit and setting it at a number “feasible for the Kinesiology Department.”

5. Even with no limit, students don’t have room in their schedules for many physical activity courses.

6. The Department of Kinesiology can cover up to 4 credits of physical activity with current FTE.

7. Departments identify whether a course is repeatable.

8. Allowing students to count up to 4 credits would enable intercollegiate participation: athletes could count their intercollegiate participation toward graduation.

Pros of Recommendation:

Providing 4 credits of physical activity towards graduation (similar to band, chorus and drama) would provide the following benefits:

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Activity Credits

1. Enable our athletic scholars to count their sports-related activities toward their baccalaureate— one credit per year;
2. Show support for the university’s goal of increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles;

Cons of Recommendation:
1. :alksdljk

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
Change the “Activity Credit” and “Other Restricted Credits” text (pages 50-51 of the 2015-16 Undergraduate Catalog) to read as follows:
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of ____ for to ____ against on______________

recommends that the text under “Activity Credit” and “Other Restricted Credits” (pages 50 - 51 of the 2015-2016 Undergraduate Catalog) be changed to read as follows:

Implementation Date: 2016-2017 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office