

UNH FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE MOTION # IV-M4

1. Faculty Senate Committee Academic Affairs.
2. Committee Chairperson Deborah Winslow.
3. Date of Faculty Senate Discussion 1-24-00.
4. Committee/Administrator Responsible for Implementation _____
5. Motion:

(See attached.)

6. Rationale:

(See attached.)

7. Senate Action: Passed on 1-24-00 Vote: with 3 nays & 0 abstentions

Chair's verification: *Paul A. D. D. W.* Date: Jan 28/2000

Forwarded to: Joan Leitzel, President Date: 1-28-2000

David Hiley, VPAA Date: 1-28-2000

Regina Smick-Attisano, TSAS Director Date: 1-28-2000

Proposed Motion
From the Academic Affairs Committee
January 24, 2000

Motion to amend Student Rule 05.32(as)

The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the following policy change be adopted by the Faculty Senate:

University of New Hampshire Baccalaureate or Associate in Arts degree candidates may take any Thompson School courses with 200 numbers for credit with the following stipulations:

- 1. Only a TSAS course transferable to UNH at the time at which it was taken may be taken by a UNH Baccalaureate or Associate in Arts degree candidate for credit. The UNH Office of Admissions will maintain a list of non-transferable courses, as per Senate motion II-M6, 2/23/98.**
- 2. Grades received in 200-numbered courses will be recorded on the student's transcript but will not affect or be included in the student's GPA.**
- 3. BA/BS candidates may take a maximum of 16 credits of TSAS courses; AA candidates may take a maximum of 8 credits. Normally, a student may take no more than 4 credits of TSAS coursework per semester, but this limit may be waived with the approval of the student's adviser for legitimate academic reasons (such as linked courses or because a needed course will not be available later).**
- 4 TSAS courses may not be used for general education, writing intensive, or foreign language requirements. They may be used for major or minor requirements only if specifically approved on a course-by-course basis by the department granting the major or minor and when the student meets the usual minimum grade requirements of that program.**

HISTORY

On 2/23/98, the Faculty Senate passed the following motion:

"The Admissions Office, with the advice and consent of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, shall review and approve courses for either full or zero transfer credit to the Other Accepted Courses category. The criteria for the award of the full number of credits earned at the original institution in this review process shall depend on the following conditions:

- 1. The course credit shall be earned at an institution accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education or its equivalent.**
- 2. The course shall be comparable in scope and level to credit bearing course offerings at the University of New Hampshire.**
- 3. The department/program accreditation in which the student majors shall not be adversely affected. Accreditation issues that implicate this part of the policy**

shall be raised by the department/program and brought to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate."

In the rationale for the motion, as passed by the Faculty Senate and forwarded to President Leitzel and Provost Eggers, it specifically states that: "This motion is meant to cover all transfer students including Thompson School transfers, with the interim exception of students from New Hampshire Community Technical Colleges." The "interim exception" was covered in a second motion (also, 2/23/98) that explained that when the NH Community Technical Colleges become accredited by the New England Association of School and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, courses from these institutions also will be transferable.

Since 2/23/98, the Admissions Office has awarded 100% credit to transfer students who have taken courses at appropriately accredited institutions, including TSAS. UNH BA/BS undergraduates who take courses at those same institutions during the summer or while otherwise away from the university, also receive full transfer credit.

However, there is still a UNH Academic Policy that states: "...Thompson School 200-level courses must be taken as audit by UNH baccalaureate or associate degree candidates, since these courses carry no graduation credits" [Student Rule 05.32(as)]. (Note: All Thompson School courses have 200 numbers.)

The Thompson School of Agriculture was approved to grant Associate in Applied Science degrees in 1964; in 1966, it became the Thompson School of Applied Science. It would appear that in 1964, UNH BA/BS/AA students normally were not allowed to use TSAS courses for credits towards their degree. However, the earliest documented mention of such a policy that we so far have found is a 1971 statement by the Board of Trustees that states, "Credits shall be transferable between institutions of the University System and applicable to any undergraduate degree program provided that: "... (B) they were earned in any undergraduate degree program except the Associate of Applied Science." The statement goes on to say that "credit may be transferred in full or in part, depending on the specific character of the work and upon the program to which the student transfers..." A similar rule appears in the Admissions Office Handbook of Transfer Credit Policies of 1974, compiled by Eugene Savage, Director of Admissions.

Under the UNH credit transfer policy at that time, TSAS students who transferred to UNH actually did receive partial credit for their TSAS work (as a block of credit equal to 60% of the total TSAS credits), although there also were a few courses (accepted as General Education courses or by the student's new major department for major credit), that transferred at full credit.

Both the Trustees' policy and the Admissions policy apply to students moving from TSAS to a baccalaureate program at UNH. Over the years, the number of Thompson School courses transferred at full credit has increased, and in 1998, the Faculty Senate approved the transfer of most Thompson School courses at full credit. To date, there has

been no change in the policy prohibiting Baccalaureate or Associate in Arts students from taking Thompson School courses for credit toward their degrees. The purpose of this motion is to amend Student Rule 05.32 (as) to make it consistent with other policy changes.

RATIONALE

1. Fairness to Students

a. Former TSAS students can count TSAS courses towards their UNH BA or BS degree; therefore, UNH associate in arts and baccalaureate candidates (hereafter to be called, "UNH undergraduates") should be able to, as well.

b. "UNH undergraduates," while on leave from UNH or during the summer, can take a course at any program in the country similar to the Thompson School, as long as it is appropriately accredited, and have the credits count (without it affecting their GPA) towards their UNH degree; therefore, they should be able to take Thompson School courses for credit, as well.

2. Access to campus resources.

a. Courses offered at TSAS can provide opportunities to enhance a student's learning generally or major in particular. A few TSAS courses, when transferred in by former TSAS students, substitute for major electives. "UNH undergraduates" should have access to these same opportunities.

b. Many TSAS courses are supported by labs which are not available elsewhere on campus. Examples include courses in Computer Aided Design (CAD), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), metal fabrication technology, and aboriculture. It is noteworthy that the only GIS teaching lab at UNH is in the TSAS. It seems reasonable that all campus students should be able to avail themselves of these resources.

3. Fairness to the TSAS and its faculty.

Over the years since 1977, two major "work arounds" have come about, both of which are unfair to the TSAS and its faculty.

a. Cross-listing. There are currently eleven dual-numbered courses and a few other courses than can be taken by "UNH undergraduates" through the mechanism of cross-listing. A Thompson School student signs up for the courses with a TSAS Department name and 200 number; the "UNH undergraduate" signs up for it with a non-TSAS department name and number. Thus, the student receives credit, but the teaching faculty's department does not. Understandably, the number of cross-listings has decreased in recent years.

b. Independent study. Under this mechanism, the "UNH undergraduate" finds a faculty sponsor who signs him or her up for an independent study course. The student takes the Thompson School course he or she needs; the faculty member reports the grade to the sponsor who enters it on the grade roster. With this mechanism, the actual courses the student has completed does not appear on the transcript; and neither the faculty member nor the TSAS receives credit.

CONCLUSION

It is not the intention of this motion to blur the missions of the TSAS and UNH. Their separate and equally important roles are clear in their programs, catalogues, published literature, and histories. The intention here is, rather, to eliminate an inequity and contradiction in current policy.