

Change Undergraduate Major – [Sustainability – BS, HBS](#) #101217

From: Beach, Gary

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 10:54 AM

To: Bailey, John <John.Bailey@oregonstate.edu>; Thompson, Allen <Allen.Thompson@oregonstate.edu>

Cc: Nunnemaker, Vickie <vickie.nunnemaker@oregonstate.edu>; Trempy, Janine <trempyj@oregonstate.edu>; Hagey, Cheryl <Cheryl.Hagey@oregonstate.edu>

Subject: FW: BS in Sustainability Proposal: CPS # 101217

John and Allen,

As a follow-up to the email that I sent you yesterday, here is the response I received from Kate Lajtha (see below). Also attached is a summary of the issue that I had sent to both Kate and Rebecca Mathern for a response.

Please note a misconception on Kate's part regarding what constitutes a "major". OSU's four concurrent degree programs are each considered to be a major. OSU recognizes in Banner SIS primary majors and secondary majors. Concurrent programs are always entered into Banner as a secondary major. A student cannot come to OSU to major in only one the four concurrent majors. They must be completed concurrently (or subsequently) with a primary major.

Vickie mentioned that this proposal, the BS in Sustainability which has to do with (1) the minimum number of credit hours required to complete a concurrent degree program, and (2) the wording in AR 25 and AR 26 as they relate to the minimum number of credit hours required to complete a baccalaureate degree program, will be on the CC's November 7th meeting agenda.

Thanks,

--Gary

From: Kate Lajtha [<mailto:lajthak@science.oregonstate.edu>]

Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 11:30 AM

To: Beach, Gary <Gary.Beach@oregonstate.edu>

Cc: Lajtha, Kate <Kate.Lajtha@oregonstate.edu>; Mathern, Rebecca <Rebecca.Mathern@oregonstate.edu>; Trempy, Janine <trempyj@oregonstate.edu>

Subject: Re: BS in Sustainability Proposal: CPS # 101217

Hi Gary,

Another thing to point out that was missing from your email - AR 25 applies to MAJORS. The SUS program is not a major! It is not possible to "major" in Sustainability at OSU. So it was a mistake in the first place to impose AR 25 on the Sustainability degree program - so I wrote the CAT II proposal to rectify what seems to me to be a very clear error.

AR 26 is what applies to Double-Degree programs, not majors. We are a double-degree program, and thus AR 26 rather than AR 25 applies to us, hence my CAT II to follow the clear statements in AR 26, and to align our program with the other double-degree programs on campus.

It follows that if we are declared a major (which we are not) and AR 25 is imposed on us, then doesn't it follow that AR 25 will have to be imposed on all the other double-degree programs, and then we might as well eliminate AR 26?

I understand that if we were an actual independent major on campus, then yes, AR 25 would apply to us, and our students would have the 36 credit rule imposed on them. Right now, having the 36 credit rule imposed on us seriously impedes the ability of students to take the double-degree, because it means staying on campus for 3 additional terms and not 2 additional terms.

Kate Lajtha
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On Oct 27, 2017, at 9:52 AM, Beach, Gary <Gary.Beach@oregonstate.edu> wrote:

Kate and Rebecca,

The BS in Sustainability change in major proposal (CPS # 101217) is currently being reviewed by the Curriculum Council.

Earlier this summer there were several email messages bouncing back and forth regarding the minimum total number of credit hours required for "regular" baccalaureate degree programs and for "concurrent" baccalaureate degree programs, including the BS in Sustainability program.

Here are my review comments regarding the proposal that I sent the Curriculum Council Co-Chairs yesterday:

I have an issue with CPS #101217, BS in Sustainability (Change in undergraduate major).

The proposal calls for a reduction in the number of credit hours required for the BS in Sustainability degree program from 36 to 32 credit hours. This is a concurrent (double) degree program that must be completed either concurrently or subsequently to the primary major. In other words, a student cannot come to OSU to complete only the BS in Sustainability degree program, it must be completed concurrently or following the completion of another (a primary) major.

[Academic regulation 25.c.2](#) states:

Credits for each major: minimum 36, including at least 24 in upper-division courses while,

[Academic regulation 26.a.2](#) states:

Concurrent and Subsequent Baccalaureate Degrees: Complete, for each additional degree, a minimum of 32 credits more than the requirements of the curriculum requiring the least number of credits

36 or 32? AR 25 states that a minimum of 36 credit hours are required to receive a baccalaureate degree from OSU (no exception is mentioned). However, AR 26 states that the minimum number of credit hours for concurrent baccalaureate degrees is 32 (which would be an exception).

Kate Lajtha raised this question this summer with Rebecca Mathern. Kate's proposal is to reduce the current number of credit hours required for the BS in Sustainability to 32 rather than the current 36. The degree program would then be aligned with the other concurrent (double) degree programs (e.g., BA, BS in Education; BA, BS in Innovation Management, BA in International Studies) that require 32 rather than 36 credit hours. The Registrar's Office expressed concern about this proposed change to the BS in Sustainability degree program. I never saw that this issue had been resolved.

On Jul 28, 2017, at 10:04 AM, Mathern, Rebecca <Rebecca.Mathern@oregonstate.edu> wrote:

Kate,

I think the biggest issue is that the ARs read in such a way that no major (including double degrees) should be able to use the number 32, so I'm looking into that. That's the sticky wicket for me. Stay with 36 for now. I'll keep you posted if that changes but the intention would be that all of them are at 36.

More conversation to come.

Thanks,
Rebecca

I will be contacting the principals involved in this discussion for a response. We need assurances that there are no lingering issues or problems associated with this proposed change in major prior to it being approved and implemented.

The proposal is currently on a temporary hold. Has this issue having do with the total number of credit hours for concurrent baccalaureate degree programs, including the BS in Sustainability change in major proposal, been amicably resolved? Will there be any change either to AR 25 or to AR 26?

Thanks,

--Gary

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