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University

College of Liberal Arts

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To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee
From: John Edwards, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Re: College of Liberal Arts "Double-Dipping" Policy

The College of Liberal Arts is proposing to institute a "no-triple-dipping" policy for its majors, which is a change from the current "no-double-dipping" policy. This new policy would state that a single course cannot count towards all three of the Baccalaureate Core, CLA Core, and major requirements. However, a single course can count towards two of them (e.g., Baccalaureate Core and major). This policy change was approved unanimously by the CLA Curriculum Committee last month. The policy would not include minors or certificates, the status of which await clarification from the university. It would also not apply to our B.A. or B.S. requirements, which already allow some double-counting with majors (but not the Bacc Core). In addition, this proposal does *not* have anything to do with current discussions surrounding courses inhabiting multiple Bacc Core categories.

CLA has long followed a "no-double-dipping" policy, such that no course can count towards more than one of the Bacc Core, CLA Core, and major requirements. CLA is the only college at OSU which has such a policy. This policy has some negative consequences:

- 1) It is confusing for students, especially transfer students, who are sometimes caught believing they had requirements covered when they do not, and that they are further from a degree than they thought. This is true both for external transfers as well as internal transfers, the latter of whom become unhappy when they find out that a class they took to meet a Bacc Core requirement no longer counts towards that requirement.
- 2) This policy contributes to the "lost credit" problem, in which community college students earn credits that don't count towards degree requirements and end up graduating with more credit hours than native students in the same major. This, in turn, leads to increased financial burden on students, and can result in them running out of financial aid eligibility. The problem is one that the state legislature and HECC are following closely.
- 3) For the above reasons, the policy contributes to CLA's poor 4-year transfer student graduation rates, and to some extent harms OSU's six-year graduation rates, especially to the extent that the numerous internal transfers to CLA are set back by the rule.
- 4) It hurts CLA enrollment. Potential external transfers who find out about the policy and its ramification for their likely graduation date sometimes choose to go elsewhere. This is especially true for potential ecampus transfer students, who are known to shop around for schools that will allow them to graduate sooner. Potential internal transfers (i.e., those from other colleges) look to other colleges who do not have the double-dipping requirement.
- 5) Students do not understand the rationale behind the requirement.
- 6) The policy leads to increased work for advisors, who at times have to go into MyDegrees and sort classes into appropriate categories by hand.

Prior to taking this to the CLA Curriculum Committee, a great deal of preliminary vetting was done. The issue was discussed with the CLA School Directors and Dean's Office. There was extensive vetting by Academic Programs and Assessment. Before it voted, the CLA Curriculum Committee was tasked with having conversation with their School faculty. Note that it appears that most faculty are unaware that the no-double-dipping policy exists (in addition, many appear unaware that there is a CLA Core requirement).

Ironically, both APA's records search and John Edwards' search of the CLA Advising records, OSU Catalogs, and OSU web site (including faculty senate minutes) indicates that there is no record of the "no-double-dipping" policy ever being approved by any formal procedure. APA believes it was implemented by someone outside of approval processes many years ago. We should probably stop following it immediately on the grounds that it is an unapproved policy. However, the preference of the CLA Curriculum Committee is the milder step of replacing "no-double-dipping" with the more lenient "no-triple-dipping", so that is the proposal here. Although some of the same problems will be associated with the triple-dipping policy as is the case for double-dipping, they should be less severe as triple-dipping is a less likely occurrence. Even where a course could be triple-dipped but cannot be due to the new policy, students will "save" a course compared to the current double-dipping policy.

One benefit of the proposed policy is that it frees up CLA units to make changes to their majors that take advantage of courses currently in the Bacc Core or CLA Core. It also frees up space for students to take on a minor, certificate, or additional major if they choose.