

11-16-2011

Resolution 20111116.1

Faculty Senate

Resolution 20111116.1: Regarding checking for student graduation from pre- requisites

Whereas it is common for students to register for a course in an upcoming semester while taking one of its prerequisites in the current semester and

Whereas it has sometimes happened that such students fail the prerequisite course yet because they are already registered for the upcoming course they go on to attempt that course, and many of these students subsequently fair poorly in that course and

Whereas this current policy does a disservice to our students, allowing them to participate in courses where they are at a distinct disadvantage to those students who have successfully completed the prerequisites. Therefore,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate requests that the Provost's Office and the Office of Records and Registration implement a procedure to recheck course prerequisites after grades are posted at the end of each semester. If a student does not pass a course that is a pre-requisite for a course a student is registered for in the upcoming semester, the student's registration for that course should be cancelled prior to the start of classes. The student should be notified as quickly as possible to afford them sufficient time to register for a different course.

We request that this policy be implemented as soon as feasible, and that the Provost's Office report back to the Faculty Senate on this implementation before March, 2012.

Resolution 20111116.2 Support of the CAS's CAC's call for changes to the naming of bachelors degrees

Whereas the College Advisory Council (CAC) of the College of Arts and Sciences passed a resolution on October 30, 2011, calling for the Provost's Office to adopt a policy allowing each program/department to determine the naming of its bachelors degrees (for example, "Bachelor of Arts" or "Bachelor of Science") and

Whereas the Faculty Senate unanimously passed a resolution on February 17, 2010, supporting an earlier resolution by the CAC, stating that "*Each academic program should determine the degree type that is appropriate for its graduates (B.A., B.S., etc.). Remove one year of college credit in a foreign language as the distinction between the B.A. and the B.S.*" and

Whereas in a memo on May 5, 2011 Provost Jack Kay suggested three different frameworks for determining the naming of bachelor's degrees and

Whereas at the Senate meeting of September 7, 2011 the Provost's office requested that the Faculty Senate and the CAC consider formal written criteria to determine whether a BA or BS should be awarded and

Whereas the CAC has surveyed many of Eastern's peer institution and determined that most of them do not require a written criteria but instead rely on their individual departments to determine the name of their bachelors' degrees, and

Whereas the CAC's resolution calls for the use of the usual, contractual, faculty input process to vet any changes to the names of program degrees, therefore

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate supports the CAC's response of October 30, 2011 and asks that the Provost's Office move to implement this policy change as soon as possible, and report back to the Senate on this implementation no later than March, 2012.

The central paragraphs in the CAC's resolution are:

We suggest, rather, that the criterion for each degree should be the program of study.

The unifying experience for our students should be at the level of *bachelors degree* (i.e., all students who earn a bachelors degree from EMU must...), not at the level of *Bachelor of Arts* and *Bachelor of Science*. We have requirements in place for the bachelors degree: university graduation requirements (including General Education). The "... of Arts" and "... of Sciences" should be appropriate to the program of study.

Proposals for each program's degree type should be subject to the standard input process: proposed by programs/departments and reviewed by all of the college councils.

The full text of the CAC resolution is appended here:

To: Rhonda Longworth, Associate Provost

From: Jill Dieterle, College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Council

Cc: Tom Venner, CAS Dean; Matt Evett, Faculty Senate President

Provost Kay's memo of 5/5/2011 suggests three different frameworks for awarding Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. Below is the response from CAC.

Framework (1) suggests that the B.S remain the default; Framework (2) suggests that the B.A. become the default. But to make either degree a "default" is to denigrate the default degree, suggesting that it is lesser than the other degree. This is not the case; the B.A. is the preferred degree for the arts and humanities, whereas the B.S. is the preferred degree for the sciences. We therefore do not endorse either of these frameworks.

Framework (3) suggests that EMU institute different criteria for the B.S. and the B.A., and then programs must meet the criteria for their graduates to qualify for the degree in question.

We suggest, rather, that the criterion for each degree should be the program of study.

The unifying experience for our students should be at the level of *bachelors degree* (i.e., all students who earn a bachelors degree from EMU must...), not at the level of *Bachelor of Arts* and *Bachelor of Science*. We have requirements in place for the bachelors degree: university graduation requirements (including General Education). The "... of Arts" and "... of Sciences" should be appropriate to the program of study.

Proposals for each program's degree type should be subject to the standard input process: proposed by programs/departments and reviewed by all of the college councils.

Provost Kay's memo suggests that it is the norm that there be some criteria distinguishing the B.A. from the B.S. However, our research does not support this conclusion. We surveyed all of the Michigan Publics, all of the MAC schools, and all of the EMU identified peer institutions (38 schools). While some of the schools do have specific criteria for the two degrees, they are not consistent about what those criteria are. Furthermore and most importantly, 23 of the 38 institutions make the degree type dependent on the program of study.

A Resolution to Advance Benefits Equity at Eastern Michigan University

Whereas Michigan House Bills 4770 and 4771, which seek to prohibit any state public employer, including universities, from offering medical or fringe benefits to unmarried individuals who reside in the same household, and to limit the right to collectively bargain for these benefits, are currently awaiting a vote by the full Senate < <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2011-HB-4770>>, and

Whereas Eastern Michigan University has led nationally in creating a positive campus climate for all of its employees and students, which include those who self- identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students, faculty and staff:

- EMU was “named one of the top gay friendly universities in the nation by the 2011 Campus Pride Climate Index.”
<http://www.emich.edu/univcomm/releases/press_release.php?id=1313158920>
- EMU was ranked 18th in the country, leading the state of Michigan, on Newsweek's list of gay friendly colleges and universities in 2011.
<<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/features/college-rankings/2011/gay-friendly.html>>
- EMU established the Center for the Study of Equality and Human Rights in 2010 through the generous gift of alumnus and former Regent Timothy Dyer. The Center's mission is the advancement and promotion of research on equality and human rights, with a primary focus on eliminating homophobia in society.
<http://www.emich.edu/univcomm/releases/press_release.php?id=1287500302>

and

Whereas across the nation, universities and corporations deem offering equitable benefits to all employees as critical to recruiting and retaining talented faculty, professionals and staff, and

Whereas the current EMU Additional Eligible Adults (AEA) benefits policy is in purposeful compliance with current state law, in that it does not grant benefits based on domestic partnership, yet offers equitable benefits to all employees, regardless of marital status, and

Whereas Michigan universities are autonomously governed bodies that make decisions based on the best interests of their institutions' constituents.

Therefore be it resolved that:

Eastern Michigan University continues to offer and support full and equal benefits for Additional Eligible Adults.

We urge President Martin, the Regents, and the Office of Government and Community Relations to publicly support the continuation of these benefits and to strongly advocate with both the Michigan Senate and Governor Snyder for the University's ability to autonomously offer competitive AEA benefits to attract and retain a diverse and vibrant faculty and staff that is treated with respect and equity.

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