



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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December 1, 2008

Dr. David Prior
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
The University of Texas System
OHH 304 (P4300)

Dear David:

I write concerning the "Proposal Regarding Minimum Score Requirements Earned from Credit by Exam Tests," *Documents of General Faculty* 6464-6465, that was approved by the Faculty Council at its meeting of October 28, 2008 (cf. enclosure). In a letter to me of November 19, 2008, Dr. Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost, recommended approval of this legislation.

. . . This legislation would allow students to use credit by exam scores to satisfy designated course prerequisites. The automated prerequisite checking system would be modified in the Office of the Registrar to access credit by exam scores and used to qualify students for registration. . . . I would like to recommend its approval.

I endorse the Faculty Council "Proposal Regarding Minimum Score Requirements Earned from Credit by Exam Tests," D 6464-6465, and recommend your approval of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

William Powers, Jr.
President

WP/am

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost
Dr. Charles A. Roeckle, Deputy to the President
Dr. Terri Givens, Vice Provost
Dr. David Hillis, Chair, Faculty Council
Dr. Lawrence Abraham, Chair, Educational Policy Committee
Dr. Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary, General Faculty and Faculty Council
Mr. Shelby Stanfield, Associate Vice President and Registrar
Ms. Laura Kobler, Associate Registrar
Ms. Debbie Roberts, Executive Assistant



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST
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November 19, 2008

William Powers Jr.
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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
U.T. AUSTIN

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REFER TO _____
HANDLE _____
COMMENT & RETURN _____
FILE OR DISCARD _____

Dear Bill,

The enclosed legislation regarding minimum score requirements earned from credit by exam tests (D 6464-6465) involves a university-wide change and as such, I am forwarding it to your office for further review and approval. This legislation would allow students to use credit by exam scores to satisfy designated course prerequisites. The automated prerequisite checking system would be modified in the Office of the Registrar to access credit by exam scores and used to qualify students for registration. This legislation has the support of the Educational Policy Committee and was approved by the Faculty Council on October 28, 2008. I would like to recommend its approval.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Leslie
Executive Vice President and Provost

SWL:kc

Approved:
William Powers, Jr.
President
Date: 12/3/08

xc: (letter only)

Terri Givens, Vice-Provost
Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President
Laura Kobler, Associate Registrar
Lawrence Abraham, Chair, Educational Policy Committee
Sue Greninger, Secretary, Office of the General Faculty
Debbie Roberts, Office of General Faculty

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**PROPOSAL FROM THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE REGARDING
MINIMUM SCORE REQUIREMENTS EARNED FROM CREDIT BY EXAM TESTS**

On behalf of the Educational Policy Committee, Professor Larry Abraham (professor, curriculum and instruction and committee chair) submitted the following motion concerning the minimum score requirements earned from credit by exam tests. The secretary has classified this proposal as *general* legislation, which will be presented to the Faculty Council at its meeting on October 27, 2008.



Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The Faculty Council and General Faculty

Distributed through the Faculty Council web site (www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on October 20, 2008.
Copies are available on request from the Office of the General Faculty, WMB 2.102, F9500.

**PROPOSAL FROM THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE REGARDING
MINIMUM SCORE REQUIREMENTS EARNED FROM CREDIT BY EXAM TESTS**

The Educational Policy Committee offers the following motion (all of the following document) concerning the minimum score requirements earned from credit by exam tests.

Add the following statement to the *Undergraduate Catalog*, and to make the necessary changes in the registration process for implementation.

"Academic programs may accept minimum scores earned on credit by exam tests to satisfy designated course prerequisites."

RATIONALE

Justification for this recommendation is that current University policy requires that for a course to be used to satisfy a prerequisite for another course, the prerequisite must appear on the student's official record or transcript. However there is a two-step process for students to have recognition of credit by exam or advanced placement test scores appear on their transcript. The first step is to earn the credit by taking the exam and earning the appropriate score. Several types of exams contribute to "credit by exam", including selected tests from the Advanced Placement program, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), International Baccalaureate (IB) program, UT Austin tests, and other tests. The second step is to officially request that the qualifying score be recognized on the official record as credit for an equivalent course. In some cases, the score may qualify a student to receive credit for more than one University course, and so the student may choose which course will appear on the transcript.

There are several situations in which a student may wish to either delay or completely defer seeking for these scores to be recognized on the transcript, yet may still wish to enroll in a course for which this score could serve to fulfill a prerequisite. One such situation is when a student has not yet chosen a major and so is not sure which qualifying course will best meet the degree requirements. Another situation is when the course that would fulfill a prerequisite for a required course would not itself fulfill any degree requirement, and so adding this course to the transcript would mean having additional hours beyond the minimum required for the degree. Since the State of Texas offers \$1000 to students who graduate with no more than three credit hours above the minimum required for the degree, requiring students to petition for prerequisite courses to appear on their transcripts could carry a financial penalty.

Regardless of these various circumstances, which might lead a student to seek the proposed benefit, the sense of the committee is that the student would have demonstrated the competence required to fulfill the course prerequisite. One way to view this is that the exam would be serving simply as a qualifying exam to allow the student to take a more advanced course, which is generally less controversial than the exam's more common use as a mechanism for receiving actual course credit.

The registrar has confirmed that the automated prerequisite checking system can be modified so that credit by exam scores earned and ready for student petition can be accessed and used to qualify students for registration. Individual academic programs may still set unique, course-specific prerequisites that supersede this standard policy, including (if they wish) requiring actual course credit to fulfill a prerequisite. However the proposed recommendation would establish as the default policy to accept test scores that would qualify for course credit, which would, in turn, satisfy the prerequisite.