February 24, 2014

Gregory Fenves
Executive Vice President and Provost
The University of Texas at Austin
MAI 201
Campus Mail Code: G1000

Dear Dr. Fenves:

Enclosed for your consideration and action is a proposal to clarify the acceptable minimum grade for core curriculum courses (D 11272-11274) in the College of Undergraduate Studies section of the Undergraduate Catalog 2014-2016. The proposal was classified as being of general interest to more than one college or school, and was approved by the Faculty Council on a no-protest basis on February 21, 2014. The authority to grant final approval on these changes resides with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Please let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this legislation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dean P. Neikirk, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

DPN:dlr

Enclosure

xc: William Powers Jr., President
Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President

ec (letter only): Brent Iverson, dean, College of Undergraduate Studies
Alison Danforth, manager, IMA
Brenda Schumann, Associate Registrar
David Laude, Sr. Vice Provost, via Kati Pelletier
CLARIFICATION OF THE ACCEPTABLE MINIMUM GRADE FOR CORE CURRICULUM COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM SECTION IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES SECTION IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2014-2016

Dean Brent L. Iverson in the School of Undergraduate Studies has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following changes to the School of Undergraduate Studies section in the Undergraduate Catalog, 2014-2016. The dean approved the changes on March 29, 2013. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation as being of general interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty).

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the change on January 22, 2014, and forwarded the proposed changes to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by February 21, 2014.

Dean P. Neikirk, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

Posted on the Faculty Council website (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on February 7, 2014.
CLARIFICATION OF THE ACCEPTABLE MINIMUM GRADE FOR CORE CURRICULUM COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM SECTION IN THE SCHOOL OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES SECTION IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2014

Type of Change: Academic Change

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT NEAL ARMSTRONG TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.
   • Is this a new degree program? No
   • Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? No
   • Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? No

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:
The 2012-14 catalog states that the minimum acceptable grade for courses used to fulfill core curriculum requirements is a D-. Since a grade of CR could mean D- or better, The Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee (UGSAC) agreed that additional language should clarify that courses must be taken for a letter grade in order to receive core credit. This language change articulates and clarifies a policy that has already been in practice.

3. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:
   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes
      If yes, then how? All UT Austin students follow the University wide core curriculum requirements. However, there should not be any effect on students since this language clarifies a policy that has been in practice for years.
   b. Will students in other degree programs be impacted (are the proposed changes to courses commonly taken by students in other colleges)? Yes
      If yes, then how? See answer for question 2.
   c. Will students from your college take courses in other colleges? N/A

If 3 a, b, or c was answered with yes:
How many students do you expect to be impacted? All UT Austin students

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
Person communicated with: Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee
Date of communication: Ongoing discussions throughout the 2012-13 academic year.
Response: Voted in favor of the language change.

d. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? Yes
   If yes, explain: This change is about the core.
   If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:
   Person communicated with: N/A
   Date of communication: N/A
   Response: N/A

e. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No
   If yes, explain:

1 See http://www.utexas.edu/provost/planning/cat_change/UnderGrad.html for detailed explanations.
4. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS
College approval date: March 29, 2013
Dean approval date: March 29, 2013

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:2
Core Curriculum

All students pursuing an undergraduate degree at the University must complete the following required coursework. These requirements are consistent with statewide core curriculum guidelines; the area of the statewide core that each requirement meets is given in parentheses in the following table. A single course may not be counted toward more than one core area.

[The minimum acceptable grade for courses] Courses used to fulfill core curriculum requirements must be taken for a letter grade; the minimum acceptable grade is D-[]. Individual degree plans may not require a higher minimum standard for core courses in general. However, individual degree plans may set a higher minimum grade standard for core courses that are also required in the major field or are required as prerequisites for courses in the major.

State law requires that courses fulfilling a core component area (including the institutionally designated option) at one Texas public institution must transfer and substitute for the receiving institution’s requirements. However, this only applies to courses taken when a student does not hold degree-seeking status at UT Austin. While a student holds degree-seeking status at UT Austin, courses taken to fulfill core curriculum requirements must meet UT Austin core definitions in the relevant UT Austin undergraduate catalog, regardless of where they are taken.

{Changes to the core curriculum course list will follow in separate legislation.}

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2 The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catalogcopy.html. Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use “track changes”! For questions on completing this section, please contact the Office of the General Faculty, fc@austin.utexas.edu, 471-5936 or Brenda Schumann, brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu, 475-7654.