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 create a Health and Society Degree Program (D 11327-11330) in the College of Liberal Arts 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 resides 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,

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):

Randy Diehl, dean, College of Liberal Arts
Alison Danforth, manager, IMA
Brenda Schumann, Associate Registrar
David Laude, Sr. Vice Provost, via Kati Pelletier
DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A HEALTH AND SOCIETY DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS SECTION IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2014-2016

Interim Dean Sharon Wood in the Cockrell School of Engineering has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following changes to the Cockrell School of Engineering section in the Undergraduate Catalog, 2014-2016. On November 7, 2012, the faculty in the department approved the new degree program. The faculty of the college and the dean approved the changes on May 24, 2013, and June 24, 2013, respectively. 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 February 5, 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 10, 2014.
PROPOSAL TO CREATE A HEALTH AND SOCIETY DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS SECTION IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2014-2016

Type of Change          Degree Program 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?          Yes
   • 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:
   This is a new degree program. The mission of the Health And Society (H&S) undergraduate major at The
   University of Texas at Austin is to train students to understand the social, demographic, cultural, economic,
   political, and ethical contexts underlying health patterns, health behavior, medical care, and health policy.
   To accomplish this overall mission, the health and society major includes three objectives for students: 1) develop
   an understanding of health patterns, health behavior, medical care, and health policy in social,
   demographic, cultural, economic, political, and ethical contexts through a foundation of coursework; 2) learn
   skills to analyze health patterns, health behavior, medical care, and health policy in context through
   required methodological/statistical and advanced seminar coursework; and 3) build a knowledge base in a
   specific area of health and society through sets of specialized coursework that allows students to improve
   their understanding health patterns, health behavior, medical care, and health policy in human populations.

3. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE
   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes
      If yes, then how? All H&S students will be required to take at least one course in a college/school
      other than CoLA and many of them will take several courses outside of College of Liberal Arts
      (CoLA). Of the six required courses, one of them (the biology course requirement) is offered
      exclusively in the College of Natural Sciences (CNS). A second (the Social/Behavioral Epidemiology
      course) offers two options—one in the College of Education and one in CoLA—and we anticipate that
      approximately one-half of the students will take this requirement outside of CoLA. And the lists of
      courses for the four specializations include courses both within CoLA and courses from many other
      colleges and schools. So in a nutshell, all will take at least one course outside of CoLA that is required
      for the major and many of the students will take several courses outside of CoLA.

      Chairperson John Ivy (kinesiology September health education) expressed a minor concern that the
      name of one of the proposed specializations in a draft version of the H&S major was similar to one of
      the majors available in his department, called "Health Promotion." He asked the H&S faculty panel to
      consider whether the specialization we were constructing was quite different than the major in his
      department and, if so, to title our specialization something different to avoid both curriculum overlap
      and student confusion. Our faculty panel, which includes two faculty members from his department,
      reviewed the proposed specialization of our major that was initially termed "Health Behavior and
      Health Promotion", thought hard about the content, and ended up focusing this specialization
      exclusively on health behavior. We then opted to label this specialization, "Health and Behavior."

   b. Will students in other degree programs be impacted (are the proposed changes to courses
      commonly taken by students in other colleges)? No
      If yes, then how?
c. Will students from your college take courses in other colleges? Yes

If 3 a, b, or c was answered with yes:

How many students do you expect to be impacted? H&S anticipates admitting approximately 100 majors per academic year.

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

- Person communicated with: Leann Field (biological sciences)
  Date of communication: February 2, 2012
  Response: I believe that we indicated that we could open up to five seats for HSC majors. We request that the advisors collect the names of the majors who would like to take BIO 317 each semester and forward their names and EIDs to my office to facilitate registration. Once their names are added to a list for that course, students will be able to register themselves during their normally scheduled registration times. As a member of the committee who has worked to develop this major, it is wonderful to see the recent progress that Dr. Hummer has made to bring this closer to fruition.

- Person communicated with: Barry Brummett (communication studies)
  Date of communication: January 19, 2012
  Response: Yes, I think it’s a wonderful initiative and we will participate.

- Person communicated with: Glenn Frankel (journalism)
  Date of communication: February 28, 2012
  Response: Sounds like a very accurate summation of what we said and how we feel. Thanks to you, Karen and Brad for taking the time to come talk to us about it.

- Person communicated with: John Ivy (kinesiology and health education)
  Date of communication: January 20, 2012
  Response: I am in support of the new health program conducted through the College of Liberal Arts with the changes in program name so stated on your email.

- Person communicated with: Alexa Stuifbergen (nursing)
  Date of communication: January 30, 2012
  Response: Your summary fits with my recollection. I would also add that the School of Nursing will be one of the co-sponsoring schools/colleges. I am sure Gayle T. will also let us know if there is something additional. Best wishes with the development of the program.

- Person communicated with: James Pengebaker (psychology)
  Date of communication: January 24, 2012
  Response: The idea of creating a health and society major is long overdue at UT. Although the psychology department does not have many courses that would directly funnel into this new major, I can imagine that many of your and our students would double major. I look forward to working with you on this in the coming years.

- Person communicated with: Luis Zayas (social work)
  Date of communication: February 7, 2012
  Response: Thanks for the notes. They indeed reflect our conversation. As I mentioned at the meeting, I think this is a truly worthy major to pursue. The School of Social Work supports the creation of the health and society major.

d. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? No

e. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No

4. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: November 7, 2012
College approval date: May 24, 2013
Dean approval date: June 24, 2013
PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

Health and Society Honors Program

For the Health and Society Honors Program, students complete a two-semester (six hours) honors thesis under the supervision of a faculty member. Students interested in writing an honors thesis should contact the Honors Advisor, preferably in the first semester of their junior year, in order to discuss plans for the thesis and begin to lay the groundwork for their project. Students applying for the Honors Program must have a University GPA of at least 3.0, must have completed Introduction to Health and Society (HSC 30x) with a B- or better, and must have a GPA in their core HSC courses of at least 3.5 at the time of the application. Students are also expected to identify a thesis supervisor (a faculty member) at the time of application. All Honors Program applications must be submitted to the program’s Honors Advisor by February 15 in the spring prior to their senior year.

Graduation Requirements for Health and Society Honors
1) Completion of Liberal Arts and HSC requirements
2) University GPA of at least 3.0
3) H S GPA of at least 3.5
4) H S 679H, Honors Thesis

Health and Society

Major:
Thirty semester credit hours, of which at least fifteen must be upper-division, including:

H S 301, Introduction to Health and Society
Three semester hours in each of the following:
1. Biology: three semester hours, chosen from BIO 301D, Biology for Business/Law/Liberal Arts, BIO 311C, Introductory Biology I, BIO 309D, Human Body
2. Social/Behavioral Epidemiology: three semester hours, chosen from HED 343, Foundations in Epidemiology, SOC 368D/PBH 368D, Social Context of Public Health
3. Methods and Statistics: three semester hours, chosen from an approved list
4. Social Justice and Health Courses: three semester hours, chosen from an approved list
Nine semester hours, chosen from an approved list, in one of the following tracks:
1. Health and Behavior
2. Cultural Aspects of Health
3. Health Care and the Economy
4. Population Health
Three additional semester hours, chosen from any course offered from any of the specializations listed above. Alternatively, students wishing to pursue graduate studies or develop advanced research skills are encouraged to satisfy their “Additional Major Course” requirement by completing the optional three-hour H S Advanced Research Emphasis (ARE), H S 378, Seminar in Health and Society.

Minor for Health and Society Majors
Twelve semester hours, including at least six hours of upper-division coursework, in any one other field of study in the University. Six of the required twelve semester hours must be taken in residence. If the minor is in a foreign language other than that used to fulfill the foreign language requirement, the twelve semester hours may be lower-division but must include at least six hours beyond course 507 or the equivalent.