PROPOSED ADDITION OF THE PRESENTATION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (BA & BS) SECTION IN THE JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Dean Sharon Mosher in the Jackson School of Geosciences has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following addition to the Undergraduate Catalog, 2016-2018. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusive interest to only one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the new section on January 6, 2016, and forwarded the proposal 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 UT System.

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 January 20, 2016.

Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

Posted on the Faculty Council website (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on January 13, 2016.
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PRESENTATION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (BA & BS) SECTION IN THE JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Type of Change  ☒ Academic Change  ☐ Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

Proposed classification  ☒ Exclusive  ☐ General  ☐ Major

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

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:
   Revised Presentation of Degree Requirements (p. 269)
   Adjustments to location and formatting of degree information and requirements have been made for the Geological Sciences undergraduate BA and BS Options I, II, III and V degrees including the addition of a suggested 4-year arrangement of courses for each degree plan. Common requirements for all geological sciences degrees are presented first followed by individual degree plan requirements. Each progression of requirements for the degree notes the core curriculum and flag requirements, shared geological sciences degree requirements, prescribed work and lastly the major requirements. This revised presentation which includes information about Length of Degree Program, should facilitate students’ course planning and identification of prerequisites early in their career.

Foreign Language Proficiency
Changes in the foreign language requirement for the BS GeoSci Options I, II and III are included in a separate impact statement. The information proposed for the Requirements for All Geological Sciences Degree Plans section highlights the University’s basic education requirements in a foreign language in an effort to clarify expectations of students initiating a geological sciences degree program in the Jackson School of Geosciences.

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)
   ☐ Courses in other colleges  ☐ Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges  ☐ Flags
   ☐ Course in the core curriculum  ☐ Change in course sequencing for an existing program  ☐ Courses that have to be added to the inventory
   ☐ Change in admission requirements (external or internal)  ☒ Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)

4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE
   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools?  Yes ☐  No ☒
      If yes, then how?
   b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college?  Yes ☐  No ☒
      If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college?  
   Yes ☐ No ☒  
   If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges?  
   Yes ☐ No ☒  
   If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

   How many students do you expect to be impacted?  
   Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
      Person communicated with:
      Date of communication:
      Response: Pending

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

f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain:

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS
   Program approval date: May 6, 2015
   Dean’s Scholars approval date (for changes to Option II): N/A
   College approval date: May 6, 2015

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

Requirements for All Geological Sciences Degree Plans

Each student must complete the University’s core curriculum. In the process of completing core curriculum and geological sciences degree requirements, students must also earn credit for seven flags including: two writing flags, one quantitative reasoning flag, one global cultures flag, one cultural diversity in the United States flag, one ethics and leadership flag, and one independent inquiry flag. In some cases, a course required for the degree/major may also be counted toward the core curriculum. Flags may be added to courses periodically; courses that may be used to fulfill flag requirements are identified in the Course Schedule. Students are encouraged to discuss options for completing flag requirements with his or her academic advisor.

A course in one prescribed work area may not also be used to fulfill the requirements of another prescribed work or major requirement; the only exception to this rule is that a course that fulfills any other requirement may also be used to fulfill a core curriculum requirement, or a flag requirement if the course carries that flag, unless otherwise specified.

A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 is required on all work undertaken at the University for which a grade or symbol other than Q, W, X, or CR is recorded. In addition, a grade point average of at least 2.00 is required in geological sciences courses counted toward the major requirement.
A grade of at least C- is required in each science, mathematics, and engineering course used to fulfill any of the requirements for the degree, and in each course used to fulfill a Technical Elective requirement. The official grade in a course is the last one made; however, if a student repeats a course and has two or more grades, all grades and all semester hours are used to calculate the University grade point average and to determine the student’s scholastic eligibility to remain in the University and his or her academic standing in the Jackson School of Geosciences.

All University students must complete at least sixty semester hours of the coursework counted towards the degree in residence. Individual degree(s) or options may contain additional course residency requirements.

In addition, the student must fulfill the University’s general requirements and the requirements of the Jackson School of Geosciences.

**Length of Degree Program**

An eight-semester arrangement of courses leading to the bachelor’s degree is given for each of the geological sciences degree plans. The order in which the courses are taken is critical due to the prerequisites for required courses and schedule when courses are offered. A student who registers for fewer than the indicated number of hours for each semester or skips prerequisite courses may need more than eight semesters to complete the degree. The student is responsible for including in each semester’s work any courses that are prerequisite to those he or she will take the following semester.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

In accordance with the University’s basic education requirements, all students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equivalent to that shown by completion of two semesters of college coursework. Credit earned at the college level to achieve that proficiency may not be counted toward a degree. For a student admitted to the University as a freshman, this requirement is fulfilled by completion of the two high school units in a single foreign language that are required for admission; students admitted with a deficiency in foreign language must remove that deficiency as specified in General Information.