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CURRICULUM CHANGE PROPOSAL

To: Curriculum Committee

From: Department of Physical Sciences

Date Submitted: 2007 September 28

Type of Curriculum Change Requested: Program modifications

Submitted By: Jeff Robertson

Approved By: Department Head: Jeff Robertson

Dean of School: Richard Cohoon

Reviewed By: Registrar: Tammy Rhodes

Vice-President for Academic Affairs: Jack Hamm

I. Program change as it will appear in the catalog.

Current catalog entry:

The first paragraph under the Department of Physical Sciences ends as follows, "...The statements and curricula for each of the various degrees are listed below."

Proposed new catalog entry:

"...The description and curricula for each of the various degree programs in the physical sciences are listed below. Note that for every degree program in this department, there is a non-course requirement involving an exit interview with the Department Head as part of the formal process for graduation."

II. Information

This proposal is meant to affect all degree programs within the Department of Physical Sciences. This includes the B.S. in GEOL (professional, environmental), CHEM (A.C.S., general, environmental), PHSC (general, physics, nuclear), and ENGRPHYS, as well as the proposed CHEM (biochem) option if approved.

A. Rationale for the requested change.

An informal exit interview with graduating seniors has been utilized for assessment of the physics program for a couple of years and more recently expanded to include all majors within the department. The information and insights gained in these interviews is deemed valuable enough to warrant making this a formal process. This is desired so as to ensure feedback from all of our majors since in practice only half of the students usually participated no matter what carrot was dangled before them.

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app FS 11/12/07

B. Impact?

This process would be very daunting for a department with many majors (e.g. Nursing) and requires a little more of the Department Heads time during the last few weeks of the semester. Since this department has 15-30 graduates per year (not including pre-pharmacy, pre-dental and other pre-professional students) spread amongst the degree programs there are often small number statistics in our evaluation of programs. This makes it even more critical to obtain this assessment information. In addition, the information and insights gained in these personal interviews done thus far, as judged by our faculty, would be worth the effort even with 10 times the number of majors.

Some of the data collected includes future plans of the graduate, contact information (for follow-up), major courses evaluation, specific commentary on facilities, data on any graduate exams (GRE, MCAT, etc.), and of course their overall thoughts on the degree program as a whole in preparing them for their future plans. The contact information is useful for finding them after a year to follow-up and see if anything is changed in the way they perceive their courses and program once out in the "real world."

Outside the department, there would involve coordinating with the registrar in order to implement a non-course requirement for graduation to include on the degree audit checklist s, a check-off for a graduation exit interview. The Banner system already provides an administrative mechanism for this type of academic entry on the SHANCRS (academic non-course) form that could be easily implemented.

C. We desire this change to become effective immediately upon approval.

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FORMAT FOR CURRICULUM CHANGE PROPOSAL

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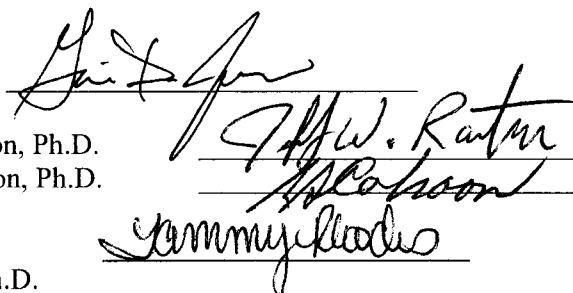
Date Submitted: September 27, 2007

Type of Curriculum Change Requested: Minor Deletion

Submitted by: Gavin D. Jones, Ph.D.

Approved by: Department Head: Jeff Robertson, Ph.D.
Dean of School: Richard Cohoon, Ph.D.

Reviewed by: Registrar: Tammy Rhodes
Vice President: Jack Hamm, Ph.D.



The rationale for the change is Chemistry majors under the ACS option will have the practical scientific exposure to a calculus-based science. Therefore, upon enrolling in CHEM 3324 and CHEM 3334, which is heavily calculus based, the students will have benefitted from their knowledge of calculus in the sciences from PHYS 2114 and PHYS 2124.

There will be no impact on staffing, budget, or space allocation as this change is simply to remove the algebra based physics (PHYS 2014 and PHYS 2024) options from the curriculum.

This change will take effect immediately following approval.

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