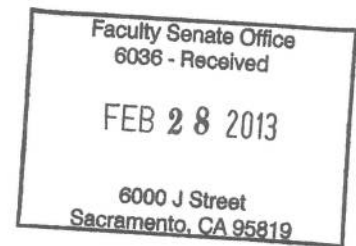




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February 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Janet Hecsh
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Alexander Gonzalez
President

SUBJECT: Senate Action of February 7, 2013: Degree Program Minimum Unit Requirement

As promised in my February 28, 2013 memorandum to you regarding the Senate Actions taken on February 7, 2013, this memorandum responds to the recommendation regarding amendment of the Degree Program Minimum Unit Requirement (FS 12/13-36).

The recommendation regarding the amendment of the Degree Program Minimum Unit Requirement is accepted in part and amended in part.

- 1) The changes that reduce the number of upper division units required in the B.A. and B.S. degrees are accepted.
- 2) The changes that set upper limits on the units in the major by reference to “units in coursework with the same 2, 3, or 4-letter course code” are revised to read “units in the major”.
- 3) The phrase found in the section on the B.S. degree that reads “are limited to no more than one-half the total degree units” is modified to read “are limited to no more than 60 semester units”.
- 4) The fourth paragraph which begins “When considering the above limits...” is deleted.
- 5) The remaining two paragraphs are accepted.

The current Sacramento State policy – AS 84-85 (UMD 03050) requires twice as many upper division units in a B.A. and B.S. major as is required by Title V of the Education Code. The Curriculum Policies Committee (CPC), with the support of the administration, proposed bringing our policy in line with Title V by cutting the number of required upper division units in half. In making this change, the CPC, again with administration support, proposed changing the phrase used in our local policy, i.e., “major field,” to “major” since the phrase “major field” does not appear in Title V.

The modification proposed by the Faculty Senate would only limit the number of units from the major department but not the total number of units required for the degree itself. This proposed change is problematic for several reasons:

- 1) It effectively removes any upper limit on the number of units in either the B.A. or the B.S. because there is no limit on the number of courses outside the major department that can be required for the major.
- 2) In a related vein, this policy places no limit on the size of interdisciplinary or special majors which rely on courses from multiple departments.
- 3) It defeats the purpose of the campus setting a standard expectation for the maximum number of units in the B.A. and B.S. degrees, an expectation which should not be exceeded without careful review and consideration by the Senate's Curriculum Policies Committee and appropriate administrators.

I am also making clear that a B.S. degree should normally be no more than 60 units. This is in line with the policy limiting the number of units in most B.A. and B.S. degrees to 120 units recently adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees. Of course, the exception process can be used to modify this maximum when appropriate.

Thank you for your attention.

AG/cj

cc: Charles W. Gossett, Interim Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs
Christine Lovely, Vice President, Human Resources