

1-31-1983

## Proposed Interdisciplinary Minor Program in Scientific Writing

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution #19, 1982-83

Proposed Interdisciplinary  
Minor Program in Scientific  
Writing

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

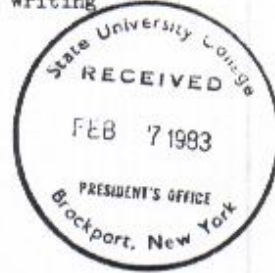
FROM: The Faculty Senate

Meeting on 1/31/83  
(Date)

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)  
       II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)  
       III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Proposed Interdisciplinary Minor Program in Scientific Writing

(see attached)



Signed Bill Reed Date Sent 2/7/83  
(For the Senate)  
Bill Reed, President, Faculty Senate

TO:  The Faculty Senate

FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

- a. Accepted. Effective Date Sept '83
- b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation:

II., III. a. Received and acknowledged

b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents: Douglas Smith, Walter Stuber, Kelly Watts

Others:

Distribution Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: [Signature]  
(President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: \_\_\_\_\_



State University of New York  
**COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT**  
Brockport, New York 14420

Department of English 716-395-2503

January 7, 1983

TO: Dr. Ara Zulalian, Chairperson  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
Faculty Senate

FROM: Vincent L. Tollers, Chairperson  
Department of English

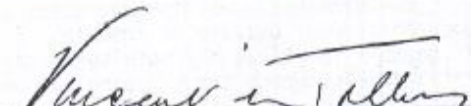
RE: Interdisciplinary Minor in Scientific Communications

The Department of English recommends that the enclosed proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in scientific communications be approved. This 19-hour minor will require the addition of two new courses: ENL 406 Scientific Writing and NAS/ENL 483 Scientific Communications. Copies of these course descriptions are enclosed.

The purpose of this interdisciplinary minor is to provide a formal course of study which combines writing skills taught by appropriate members of the Department of English with scientific skills taught by the Natural Sciences faculty. A common motif in the business/scientific community is that recent graduates have little or no formal training in expressing scientific ideas. By offering a formal course of study in scientific communications, students should therefore be able to demonstrate to prospective employers that they have the scientific skills as well as the ability and the experience to communicate their ideas.

Thus, by combining the available resources--that is, at no additional cost to the institution, the students will have more attractive credentials for prospective employers.

Please let me know when you would like Mr. Bird, Dr. Geer, and myself to appear before the undergraduate curriculum committee to formally present our proposal.

s/   
Vincent L. Tollers

VLT/bm  
xc/ Mr. Bird  
Dr. Geer  
Dean Gemmett  
Enclosures

## Proposed Interdisciplinary Minor Program in Scientific Writing

Catalog Description: Scientific Writing

Program Directors: Stephen B. Bird, English, and Ira W. Geer, Earth Sciences

Advisors: Biological Sciences, Robert P. Thompson; Chemistry, Derek L. Hill; Computer Science/Mathematics, Theron D. Rockhill; Geology, Frederick A. Mumpton; Mathematics, Richard T. Mahoney; Meteorology, Robert S. Weinbeck; Physics, Hubert P. Grunwald.

Scientific Writing: an interdisciplinary minor of 19 or more semester hours. Available to students who are interested in scientific and technical writing at professional and popular levels. Students will combine writing courses from the Department of English with a spectrum of courses from the natural sciences, mathematics and computer science. Courses will be selected in various combinations under advisement.

### Courses Required of All Students

ENL 306 Technical Writing	3 hours
ENL 406 Scientific Writing	3 hours
NAS/ENL 483 Scientific Communications	1 hour

One of the following courses

JRN/ENL 242 Introduction to Journalism	
ENL 305 Advanced Composition	
ENL 307 Business Writing	3 hours

Science/Mathematics/Computer Science majors will take a minimum of one course from each of three of the following categories (outside the student's major). Non-science majors will take a minimum of one course from each of four of the following categories:

- Biological Sciences
- Earth Sciences (Geology, Meteorology, Oceanography)
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Computer Science

(Science courses can include those which meet the General Education Breadth Component requirement in the Natural Sciences.)

### Rationale for the Minor in Scientific Writing

The objective of the Minor is to train students across a broad spectrum of scientific subjects, and to prepare them to write about these subjects intelligently and accurately. Through this program a student interested in writing about scientific subjects will be able to combine the knowledge and skills of a major, ten hours in writing courses, and nine (12 for non-science majors) among various science courses.

Career objectives may also be served by this minor program. The demand for science majors who are literate in their field is well-known, and the trained writer or journalist who can report on scientific subjects is also much sought after. It is desirable to have a specific academic program that combines writing and science skills, especially from the viewpoint of a prospective employer. The student and the public can benefit from a program that encourages articulate science reporting.

### Catalog Descriptions of New Courses

1. ENL 406 Scientific Writing (3 cr.) is a writing course designed to acquaint students with the demands of scientific prose. The course requires five papers, including a term paper. Readings in scientific journals and related text will be assigned.
2. NAS/ENL483 Scientific Communications (1 cr.) entails the study and practice of specific activities involving the communication of scientific and technical information to professional and popular audiences via the written word. Programs are individually designed. The student will complete a work experience or independent project resulting in finished and/or publishable written products.