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Proposal for Experiential Education Policy

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Resolution #31, 1982-83

Proposal for Experiential Education Policy

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate

Meeting on 5/2/83
(Date)

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

SUBJECT: Proposal for Experiential Education Policy

(see attached)



Signed Bill W. Reed Date Sent 5/10/83
(For the Senate)
Bill W. 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 July 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: Bonnie Spade, Lucille Taylor

Others:

Distribution Date: 5/1/83

Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: _____

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
PROPOSAL FOR EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Current experiential programs in Career Development and Placement offer students opportunities to earn "credit for learning" through a variety of part-time or full-time options. These elected programs are open to students from almost every major and are, in some cases, substituted for a major or program requirement with department approval. Questions, and sometimes problems, arise when an academic major does not have internship or experiential course(s) to allow a student to participate in the program for credit. As a result, some students take internship credits from one department combined with independent study credits from another. This can be arbitrary and violates current policy on independent study. The situation presents problems at registration and the total credit package can become difficult to monitor. Other concerns relate to the maximum number of experiential credit hours in a given semester or towards graduation.

The policy we now have is a SUNY policy stating that "one semester credit hour will be awarded for each 40-45 clock hour week of supervised academic activity". (Memorandum to Presidents, June 30, 1976, Vol. 76, No. 8). No College policy exists on the designation or limits of credit. A College policy does exist on awarding credit for prior experiential learning as it applies to the life experience portfolio process, however.

DEFINITIONS

Experiential Education (Learning): An all inclusive term used to describe planned (sponsored) experiences (internships, practica and career exploration options) in a work environment (excluding studio or lab work) through which students can acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes unique to field learning.

Internship: Experiential learning that is required or elected within an academic program or major (i.e. Communications, Health Science, Public Administration).

Practicum: Experiential learning that is required for a certification program (i.e. Nursing, Social Work, Curriculum and Instruction).

Independent Study: "Independent Study offers students an opportunity to achieve depth in their special subject, and a chance to cultivate the skills of mature, independent scholarship. Independent Study is not designed as a substitute for a regular course. It is designed as a "spin off" from a formal course background in a particular subject area." p. 37, 1980-81 Undergraduate Academic Policies Handbook

Career Exploration Options: Experiential learning programs or courses offered through Career Development and Placement that are elected work experiences planned in conjunction with a student's academic and career goals. These options (Assembly Intern Program, Albany Semester Program, University Year for Action, BCEP - Brockport Career Exploration Project, Cooperative Education) can be substituted for a required or elected internship with department approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Academic departments sponsoring students in internships or experiential programs should develop experiential course(s). (Departments might want to consider 300 level career exploration courses and 400 level interaship courses within the academic program or major. Course titles and/or description should denote career exploration, internship or practicum.)
2. Experiential credit should not be regarded as independent study. Independent study can be used as a co-requisite if credit is to be awarded for a required seminar with an agency sponsored program or for a specific project, paper or research associated with the field work.
3. Experiential credit should be non-liberal arts, upper division credit available to students in good standing who meet other pre-requisites (if any) as determined by the academic department, the program or the off-campus business or agency. Students will normally need a Brockport index.
4. The maximum hours of experiential credit which may be applied towards the major is determined by the academic department.
5. The maximum hours of identified (code) experiential credits towards graduation will not exceed 18 semester hours. Total hours should not include seminar credits that may be a part of a particular internship or program unless approved by a department on an individual basis for a specific purpose.
6. Experiential credit awarded during a single semester will not exceed one semester credit hour for each 40-45 clock hour-week of participation (Memorandum to Presidents, op.cit.)
7. Directed study or regular college coursework may be added to a full-time internship only with the consent of the department or program's coordinator.
8. Satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) is recommended for the career exploration option, BCEP.
9. The College should issue a statement addressing liability insurance coverage for interns or participants. (Only Nursing and Recreation and Leisure majors are currently covered under a liability policy taken out by the College.) Individual health and accident coverage is the responsibility of the business or agency supervising the student or the student him/herself.
10. If the student is receiving Financial Aid, it becomes his/her responsibility to report any stipend or earned wages to the Financial Aid office. Career Development and Placement will fill out an expense outline (form) and submit it to Financial Aid at the student's request if accrued costs during the internship period are "above and beyond" normal College expenses.

April 27, 1983