

12-8-1986

Redesignation of Recreation in Leisure Studies Program (BPS to BS)

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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TO: President John E. Van de Wetering

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on December 8, 1986
(Date)

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

SUBJECT: Redesignation of Recreation and Leisure Studies Program (BPS to BS)



Signed Ray M. Weir Date Sent 12/15/86
(For the 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 and must be approved

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: cover page to attached list

Others:

Distribution Date: 12/20/86 Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

Date Received by the Senate: _____

BROCKPORT

State University of New York
College at Brockport
Brockport, New York 14420

Recreation and Leisure Studies
(716) 395-5482/2543

May 28, 1986

TO: Chairperson, Faculty Senate
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

FR: Dr. Dave Jewell, Coordinator
Recreation and Leisure Studies

RE: Redesignation of Recreation and Leisure Studies Program

It has come to the attention of the faculty of Recreation and Leisure Studies that the requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree have been revised. Specifically, students now must complete only 60 hours of liberal arts rather than the former 75 hours. If so, there no longer exists differences between the Bachelor of Professional Studies and the Bachelor of Science degrees. Therefore, we are requesting a redesignation of the Recreation and Leisure Studies major as a Bachelor of Science program.

Recreation and Leisure Studies, when compared with other programs terminating with the BPS, has always been somewhat of an anomaly. The BPS is typically offered for programs in Construction Management, Fashion Design, Fashion Merchandizing and Technical Management. Our program has, since its beginning, placed a high emphasis on liberal arts and an interdisciplinary core. We have for many years emphasized the benefits of liberal education as well as professional preparation. Our program is truly unique in that it offers both to students.

The redesignation was originally recommended in the Spring 1983 Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Recreation and Leisure Program. The Committee addresses the benefits of awarding the Bachelor of Science degree in lieu of the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree in pages 13-15 of the Report. Copies of these pages are attached for your reference.

Due to the unfamiliarity of the BPS degree there are significant concerns as to graduate employability. The BPS is not a recognized degree, particularly outside of New York. The reaction to the degree by out-of-state employers has not been positive.

The BPS has also presented major obstacles to students wishing to double major in Recreation and Leisure Studies. In addition, students majoring in Recreation and Leisure Studies experience difficulties participating in the Delta College and completing minors in other degree areas.

It should be noted that the requested redesignation will have no impact on the curriculum itself, or will not alter required coursework. In fact,

Chairperson, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
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the overwhelming majority of our majors currently earn well in excess of the required number of liberal arts hours.

It is desired that the redesignation be effective by Fall, 1986 or, at the latest, by Spring, 1987. Most current students will opt to receive the BS, but for those who insist upon the BPS we feel an obligation to honor that request. Therefore, we would prefer a period of one year's time for current students to choose and to complete the BPS requirements. It is highly unlikely, however, that any majors will select the BPS option.

Now seems to be the ideal time to comply with the Committee's recommendations which were also supported by the President. Such action will eliminate confusion by new students and by prospective employers of our graduates, and facilitate the acceptance of our students into the many fine graduate programs.

Please notify me if I can provide additional information or justification.

DLJ:ps
copies: Dr. Marcus
Dr. Phillips
Dr. Brown
REL Faculty

Att.

BROCKPORT

State University of New York
College at Brockport
Brockport, New York 14420

Dean, School of Professions
(6) 395-2510

April 11, 1986

TO: Dr. Robert Marcus
Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: John Phillips, Jr.
Dean, School of Professions

RE: Redesignation of Recreation and Leisure Studies Program

Regarding Dave Jewell's memo to you of April 8, it would make good sense to redesignate this program to a Bachelor of Science degree rather than a Bachelor of Professional Studies. An examination of course offerings in the program as it currently exists shows it is one of the least professionally oriented programs on this campus. The BPS designation is inappropriate in the program. Perhaps it would be worth exploring with SUNY Central what it would take to bring about this redesignation.

wla
xc.: ✓ Dr. A. Brown

BRACKPORT

State University of New York
College at Brockport
Brockport, New York 14420

May 23, 1986

TO : Dr. John Phillips
Dean, School of Professions

FROM: Diane D. Elliott, Special
Assistant to the Vice President
for Academic Affairs

RE: Redesignation of Recreation and Leisure Studies Program

Bob has asked me to follow through with the process questions you raised on the redesignation of this program from a B.P.S. to a B.S. degree. The President's staff have indicated their support in principle for this change.

The first step is to submit the proposed degree change for Senate approval through the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. We can then forward the change through administrative and SUNY Central channels. Jane Altes has indicated that this is not a particularly complex change and that a narrative rationale would suffice in support of the request to add the B.S. and delete the B.P.S. She suggests that the rationale include:

- why you believe the B.S. is a preferable degree for the students.
- are there any related curricular changes inherent in this proposal.
- how will you accommodate students currently in the program who may prefer the B.P.S. to the B.S. since that is what they entered under (or don't you anticipate this as a problem).

It sounds like the department has a good start on developing this narrative based on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Recreation and Leisure Program.

Please let me know if I can be of help as the process continues or as questions arise.

DDE/hbs
xc :Dr. Marcus
✓ D. Jewell
A. Brown

written, the student must choose one of the five specialized "areas of concentration." The intent of this recommendation is to provide the means for a student to major in Recreation and Leisure without the requirement that a specific concentration be chosen.

The concentrations which presently exist within the Recreation and Leisure program are:

1. Natural Resources Management and Outdoor Recreation;
2. Community/Agency Service;
3. Therapeutic Recreation;
4. Industrial Recreation; and
5. Commercial Recreation.

These concentrations are differentiated from each other by the six hours of 300-400 level "specialized" coursework beyond the thirty hours of coursework required in common of all Recreation and Leisure majors; additionally, each concentration has a separate list of "guided liberal arts electives," from which the student must choose thirty hours of coursework. The establishment of a "non-specialist" concentration would simply require making the appropriate changes in the catalog.

The ad hoc committee believes that a Recreation and Leisure Program with a non-specialist concentration would be especially attractive to the many graduates of two-year Recreation and Leisure programs which in New York State are almost universally "generalist" Recreation and Leisure programs. (9)

- 6) The program should be granted the right to award the Bachelor of Science degree. The degree, Bachelor of Science is the appropriate degree to award to students who successfully complete the requirements for a degree in Recreation and Leisure at SUNY College at Brockport. The present degree

awarded, the Bachelor of Professional Studies, is not the appropriate degree for a program of this nature, and the fact that this program awards only this degree may indeed have had a deleterious effect upon enrollments. The committee was struck by the fact that the precipitous decline in enrollments began at precisely the same time that the process of phasing-out the Bachelor of Science degree was complete. While the committee was not able to establish a more direct connection between the two events, it would nevertheless like to record the following reservations about the Bachelor of Professional Studies:

1. The Bachelor of Professional Studies is not a degree which is known widely or recognized immediately, consequently its provenance is not well understood by high school guidance counselors, prospective freshmen, and prospective transfer students who may have serious reservations about what the degree is and whether it is "respectable."
2. The Recreation and Leisure Program at Brockport is the only one of the seven four-year Recreation and Leisure programs in New York State to offer a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree. (10)
3. The 56 programs in New York State which award the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree comprise a rather amorphous group, consisting of programs in Fashion Merchandizing and Technological Management as well as in Integrative Studies and Construction Management. (11) The scope and variety of the programs contained in this group reinforces the perceptions noted in Item 1 above and fails to portray Brockport's Recreation and Leisure program as the Liberal Arts discipline it is.

The most compelling reason to abandon the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree is that it effectively prohibits students who are majoring in other disciplines at the college from choosing a double major in Recreation and

Leisure. In 1975 while the program was phasing out the Bachelor of Science degree, fifteen percent of its majors were "second majors"; today, fewer than one percent of its majors are "second majors." (12) Recreation and Leisure would be an especially attractive option to offer students who are presently majoring in such related disciplines as Physical Education, Health Sciences, Business Administration, Arts for Children, and Nursing; it would be a valuable option for students majoring in Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology. The absence of this double major option has put the Recreation and Leisure Program at a serious disadvantage in recruiting majors, and is due, we believe, to the fact that the degree offered by the program is, for this campus, a unique degree.

- 7) The Recreation and Leisure Program should develop an eighteen credit hour "minor in Recreation and Leisure" and obtain the necessary local and state approvals for offering such a minor. Without the ability to offer a minor, this program must depend exclusively on its majors for enrollments. The same reasons which make Recreation and Leisure an attractive second major--employment opportunities and compatibility with a wide range of other disciplines--would, we believe, make a minor in Recreation and Leisure an attractive option for our students.
- 8) The faculty of the Recreation and Leisure program should begin immediately to institute those curricular and programmatic changes which will lead to accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of the National Recreation and Park Association. Implicit in this is the recommendation that the College provide the necessary financial and administrative support for the process of accrediting this program.

The case for the accreditation of this program is clear and compelling. By 1986 graduation from an accredited program will be a