

3-2-1992

Program Revisions for Minors in Biology

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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Resolution # 6 1991-92

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on 3-2-92
(Date)
RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)
For your information

SUBJECT: Program Revisions for Minors in Biology



Signed Edward J. Van Duzer Date Sent 3-10-92
(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 April 92
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: see attached list -
* Contact Faculty Senate for full
Resolution

Distribution Date 3/11/92 Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

February 15, 1992

To: Faculty Senate
Fr: Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum
Subj: Minors in biology: Proposed Program Revisions

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee recommends the approval of the statements below in bold face type as requirements proposed by the Biology faculty.

1. We strongly endorse the Biology faculty's intention to institute a requirement that the minor in biological sciences require 10 credits of upper division biology courses. The minor in environmental studies in the biological sciences already requires more than 10 credits of upper division courses by the nature of its structure.
2. We endorse the desire of the Biology faculty to require that students who will be certified at graduation as minors in biological sciences will have taken significant upper division biology courses **at Brockport**. We believe that the appropriate ratio of Brockport credits to all credits for the biology minors should not be greater than the ratio required of Biology majors, namely 18 of 38 credits.

$\frac{\text{at least 18 credits at Brockport}}{\text{at least 38 credits in Biology for major}} \times \text{at least 18 credits in biology for minor} = 8.5 \text{ or } 9 \text{ credits}$

Therefore we recommend that the Senate approve the following statements for the proposed new requirement:

A minimum of 18 credits, of which at least 10 must be at the 300/400 level, is required for the minor in biological sciences.

-and-

Students declaring a minor in biological sciences or in environmental studies in the biological sciences must earn at least 9 credits of biology courses at Brockport.

3. Your committee directs your attention to the following conflict of principles to which we find no resolution: Transfer students declaring majors and minors in biology will have the same transfer credits valued differently.

Suppose XYZ Community College has an articulation agreement with Brockport and that Brockport accepts Botany, Zoology, Genetics and Ecology taken at XYZ as equivalent to BIO 201, BIO 202, BIO 302, and BIO 303. Each of these courses is 4 credits at XYZ and at Brockport.

Consider three student's progress to Brockport degrees:

Student A begins at Brockport as a freshman and intends to major in biology. S/he takes at Brockport Botany, Zoology, Genetics, and Ecology (16 credits) in the freshman and sophomore years; by the end of the sophomore year s/he has decided (for whatever reason) not to major in biology but to major in (pick a major). When s/he is a senior s/he concludes it would look good on her/his transcript to have a minor in biological sciences, so s/he takes BIO 3xx (for example Anatomy and Physiology I). S/he passes the course, has at least 2.0 cum for her/his credits in biology and has now earned 20 credits in biology — all at Brockport; s/he graduates with her/his desired minor. The principle of appropriate upper division work, and the principle of appropriate work at Brockport have applied and no problem arises.

Student B begins at XYZ with the intent to major in biology and takes at XYZ Botany, Zoology, Genetics and Ecology. S/he transfers to Brockport with A.S. and continues her/his major in biology. All 16 credits in biology are accepted for the biology major, and s/he must earn at least 22 credits in biology at Brockport. S/he does so, maintains at least 2.0 cum in biology at Brockport and graduates with her/his desired major. The principle of appropriate upper division work, and the principle of appropriate work at Brockport have applied and no problem arises.

Student C begins at XYZ, also with the intent to major in biology, and takes at XYZ Botany, Zoology, Genetics and Ecology (15 credits). S/he transfers to Brockport with A.S., but like student A has decided on a major at Brockport different from biology. Like student A s/he decides that it would look good to have a minor in biological sciences; like student A, s/he must have at least nine credits of upper division courses at Brockport. Even though s/he has transfer credit for Genetics and Ecology (which Student B has used as part of her/his major in biology) only 1 credit of them applies to her; "at least 18 credits in biology". Student C takes the 9 credits of 300/400 level courses at Brockport, earns at least 2.0 cum, and graduates with her/his desired minor. The principle of appropriate upper division work, and the principle of appropriate work at Brockport have applied, but the principle that same course is accepted of equal value for all students and for all program purposes has been violated. The same course has been valued favorably for Student B (for the major) but unfavorably for Student C (for the minor); Student C's 8 transfer credits in genetics and ecology at XYZ, both officially equivalent to Brockport's genetics and ecology, both upper division courses at Brockport, have been discounted to value as only 1 credit or as pre-requisites for more advanced courses at Brockport.

Under the proposed requirement, Student C would appear to have three choices:

1. bite the bullet and take the 9 credits at Brockport
2. refuse to take the extra -- in her/his view -- credits beyond the usual 18 credits for a minor, and not have a minor in biological sciences
3. take a course -- like student A -- and tell the world s/he has an unofficial minor or a concentration in biology.

If Student C chose to major (for example) in earth sciences and to certify to teach, he/she is required to have a minor in a second science; already the science teaching certification program requirements will cause most students to take 9 semesters to complete their degrees. This requirement would make it likely that Student C would have to delay her/his graduation one additional semester, regardless which science s/he chose to minor in.