

2-18-1997

Combining Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programs

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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FEB 26 1997

1996-97

Resolution # 5

TO: President John E. Van de Wetering
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: February 17, 1997
RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)
For your information

FACULTY SENATE
BROCKPORT, NY 14420

RECEIVED
SUNY BROCKPORT
FEB 18 1997
PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

SUBJ: Combining Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programs

Signed: Carole D. Parsons Date Sent: 2/18/97
(Faculty Senate President)



TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: President John E. Van de Wetering
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution

- a. Accepted. Effective Date: 2/19/97
- 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: _____

Distribution Date: 2/19/97 Signed: [Signature]
(President of the College)

Combining Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programs

A PROPOSAL FOR FACULTY SENATE CONSIDERATION

Last year, the Graduate Curriculum and Research Policies Committee recommended a five-year combined Baccalaureate/Masters Degree Program in Computational Sciences for consideration by the Faculty Senate. During its deliberations, the Faculty Senate applauded the Computational Cluster Committee for developing an innovative program that integrates recent developments in High Performance Computing with traditional modes of scientific inquiry. The Graduate Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate recognized the proposed program's potential to improve the quality of existing educational programs, attract external funding, and strengthen our position as a leader in developing innovative educational programs.

Many Colleges and Universities are introducing and reintroducing combined baccalaureate/masters degree programs to recruit and retain high-quality students. The opportunity to gain a graduate degree in five years should be quite attractive to highly motivated students. In order to encourage the development of innovative programs similar to the proposed five-year combined baccalaureate/masters degree program in Computational Sciences, some of the existing College policies need modification. Presently, graduate credits may not, under any circumstances, be applied toward an undergraduate degree. Additionally, undergraduate students can register for a maximum of nine graduate credits only in their final semester provided they do not require more than nine credits to complete the baccalaureate degree. These policies provide a clear outline to separately administer undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by the college. They, however, are inadequate to manage combined undergraduate/graduate programs. For example, if a student accepted to the combined masters degree program decides to terminate his or her education in the fourth year, it is quite natural for such a student to explore the possibility of completing at least a baccalaureate degree before leaving this institution. If one excludes all graduate credits earned by this student, he or she may not have enough credits to complete the minimum of 120 credits required for graduation.

The Graduate Curriculum and Research Policies Committee strongly feels that the present policies can be amended to accommodate five-year combined baccalaureate/masters programs without undermining the integrity of principles on which the existing policies are founded. The committee recommends adding the following new provisions exclusively for administering five-year combined baccalaureate/masters degree programs.

Combined Bachelor's-Master's Degree Programs

- 1) Students are classified as undergraduates until they complete 120 credits, complete all baccalaureate requirements, and file for graduation. A student in a combined baccalaureate/masters degree program may not take more than a total of 21 graduate credits while classified as an undergraduate.

2) To earn the baccalaureate degree component of a combined degree program, students must complete 120 credits of approved study and meet all college requirements outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog.

3) Students formally accepted as candidates for a combined five-year undergraduate/graduate degree program may be allowed to register for graduate courses after the completion of 90 credits.

4) Students formally accepted as candidates for a combined five-year undergraduate/graduate degree program may apply a maximum of 12 graduate credits specifically identified as part of that combined five-year program to both the undergraduate and the graduate degree.

5) To earn the master's degree component of a combined degree program, students must complete a minimum of 138 credits, of which at least 30 must be graduate credits identified as part of that five-year program, and must meet all college requirements outlined in the Graduate Catalog.