School of Science and Engineering
Undergraduate Studies Committee

Members present:

Rice, David A (chair)
Mullin, David A
Dawers, Nancye H
Darwin, Steven P
Moll, Victor H
Christenson, Terry E
Wee, Beth E
Burdsal, Carol A (ex officio)

1) Profs McGuire and Kaplan, Physics, presented a 3 + 2 Physics-Engineering Proposal. This program would allow a student to
enroll in Physics for three years, then transfer to another
university (e.g. Vanderbilt) for two additional years to complete
an engineering program in a discipline not currently offered by
Tulane. At the successful completion of the five years, the
student would be awarded a BS in Physics from Tulane and a BS in
an engineering discipline from the partner university.

The committee expressed concerns and reservations over several
issues including:

a) Why is it advantageous to Tulane to lose a student after
3 years?

b) Is this to become a general model of outsourcing for Tulane?

c) What about the perception or stigma that Tulane is a
"feeder" for a more prestigious institution?

d) How is student advising to be carried out?

d) What about ABET accreditation?

Several specific issues needing resolution emerged from extended
discussion:

a) How will the student satisfy the senior residency
requirement?

[n.b. Residency requirements may also affect the awarding of
transfer credit. Students who entered Tulane in the fall of 2006
or later must complete the last 30 credits of course work toward
a degree in residence in Newcomb-Tulane College.
(http://advising.tulane.edu/documents/TransferNonTulaneInstructio
ns.pdf)]

b) How will the student satisfy the second-tier service
learning requirement?

c) How is the senior capstone requirement to be satisfied and appropriately approved by Tulane?

Moved, seconded, and passed:

The Committee gives preliminary approval of this program subject to the approval by appropriate committees at the College and University level (e.g. Newcomb-Tulane, Senate Committee on Educational Policy) with the understanding that Physics will report back to this Committee.

Upon gaining these committee approvals, the proposal will need to be put forth for approval by the SSE faculty.

2) A number of course additions and number changes were accepted by the committee as being approved pro-forma after review by the Chair and Associate Dean.

CENG 324 Unit Operations Lab (3) to (4) credits
CENG 325 unchanged

MATH 307 Introduction to Probability with lab, new for majors
MATH 308 Introduction to Statistical Inference with lab, new for majors
These have MATH 221 as a prerequisite

BMEN 378 Embedded Control (3) new

PSYC 467H Clinical Neuropsychology new

3) Prof Christenson, Psychology, presented to the Committee a collection of courses that would collectively meet the capstone requirement in Psychology:

PSYC 501, 502 Comprehensive, Theoretical, and Historical including comprehensive exams offered by all faculty

PSYC 503, 504 offered by individual faculty members

PSYC 505 is a zero-credit course used to flag any existing course that faculty agrees read a project therein

By formal vote, the Committee agreed to this proposal.

4) The Committee members agreed to hold a meeting in early April if necessary.

5) New Business: Somehow lost in the post Katrina restructuring was the explicit statement that a student attempting a "double major" by "... completing at least 18 non-overlapping courses ..." The current wording is "Students must complete all courses
required ..." Some majors have considerable overlap in their course requirements, potentially enabling a second major with little, if any, need for additional courses. Because of this, the faculty of Neuroscience and CMB and of Neuroscience and Psychology have forbidden double majors in those disciplines.

The Committee determined that this situation needs further exploration and possible remediation.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

David A. Rice
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