

**AGENDA of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate
Meeting of March 2, 2011 at 3 p.m. in George 227**

1. Call to order and explanation of voting procedure.
2. Presentation of resolution to abolish the 104 A&S credit requirement.
Discussion and vote.
3. Reports and discussion on continuing issues:
 - a. Resources to support A&S advising and faculty committees (Mike Kirk-Kuwaye, Student Academic Services);
 - b. Symbolic Reasoning Foundation requirement (Tom Craven, Mathematics);
 - c. Possibility of a campus-wide Program and Curriculum Committee (PCC) (Jim Caron, English).
4. Other business

Background and Rationale for Resolution abolishing the 104 Arts and Sciences credit requirement

Students wishing to graduate with an undergraduate Arts and Sciences degree must, in addition to other Manoa and A&S requirements, complete 104 credits specifically from A&S disciplines, of the 124 credits required for graduation. (UHM 2010-2011 Catalog, p. 87)

Questioning the necessity for this requirement arose in the aftermath of rejecting a reorganization of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences. Several curricular issues remained unresolved, e.g. courses that originally had been A&S credits were now counted as other credits, such as Hawaiian language courses, not because the courses had changed, but because of reorganizations of academic units.

The Arts and Sciences Educational Policy and Planning Committee (EPPC) was charged with examining all curricular issues and making recommendations to the Arts and Sciences Senate Executive Committee (A&S SEC).

The requirement that 104 of the 124 credits needed to graduate be from Arts and Sciences came to the forefront of the curricular issues. Discussions by EPPC and A&S SEC either to maintain or merely to reduce the number of credits led to a realization that any specific number was arbitrary and without pedagogical foundation.

The proposed change would simplify academic advising and aid students' progress to graduation by recognizing courses outside A&S that clearly are substantially the same as courses inside A&S. Moreover, it is likely that removing the 104 requirement would encourage students to undertake cross-college double majors, that is, majors from disciplines both within and without A&S.

Concerns have been expressed that students would migrate from A&S courses to non A&S courses. The judgment of the A&S SEC is that this migration will not happen for obvious structural reasons. A&S courses last semester (Fall 2010) were 74.5 % of all courses offered at Manoa that met Gen Ed requirements (n=1405 of 1884). Most students will continue to take most of their courses from the Colleges of A&S because that is where the courses are.

Concerns have been expressed that without the 104 requirement transfer students will be able to have radically dissimilar courses (e.g. vocational courses) counted toward the baccalaureate. However, advisors in the A&S Student Academic Services state that the number of transfer students falling into this category in the past has been very small.

RESOLUTION
To Abolish the 104 A&S Credit Requirement

Whereas the Faculty Senate of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, in the aftermath of its December 2009 rejection of the reorganization proposal for the Colleges, charged its Senate Executive Committee (SEC) with re-examination of curricular and organizational issues of the Colleges; and

Whereas the Educational Policy and Planning Committee (EPPC) of the Senate Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was charged with making recommendations on curricular issues including the course requirements for the Colleges of Arts and Science; and

Whereas the EPPC recommended to the SEC that the requirement that A&S students must take 104 A&S credits for an undergraduate degree be abolished; and

Whereas the SEC agrees with the recommendation of the EPPC that such requirement is without pedagogical foundation, and that its abolition would simplify academic advising and aid students' progress to graduation, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Faculty of Arts and Sciences hereby decides that the requirement that A&S students take 104 credits within the Colleges of Arts and Sciences should be abolished.

The Chair of the Senate Executive Committee of the Faculty of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences will communicate this decision to the Chair of the Council of Deans of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

Yes

No