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To: Undergraduate Council
From: Agnes DeFranco
Subj.: Degree Requirements
Date: September 28, 2007

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11/14/07

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While working on updating the undergraduate catalog, I have been meeting with a group of academic advisors to clarify certain issues. Attached, please see the five issues that the advisors can use some guidance.

Frank Kelley, Assistant Dean from the College of Business, and I would be glad to attend any subcommittee meetings or Council meetings to address any concerns. Please simply let us know.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Lower Division Transfer Credit Proposal for Undergraduate Council

Current Policy: Lower Division Transfer Credit

On page 26 of the UH Undergraduate Catalog, number 11, reads, "A maximum of 66 semester hours of lower division (freshman and sophomore) transfer work will be allowed to apply toward a baccalaureate degree at the University of Houston. If a student transfers more than 66 semester hours of lower division work, the dean or his/her designated representative of the college of the student's major will decide which of the total lower division hours, not to exceed 66, will apply to a UH degree".

Proposed Change: Lower Division Transfer Credit

"A maximum of 66 semester hours of lower division (freshman and sophomore) transfer work will be allowed to apply toward a baccalaureate degree at the University of Houston. If a student transfers more than 66 semester hours of lower division work, all courses can be used to fulfill requirements, however, only 66 credit hours will apply to the total hours required for the degree."

Rationale:

In the current policy, if a student has taken more than 66 semester hours of lower division transfer work, transfer courses that constitute the 67th and subsequent credit hours may not be used fulfill requirements.

In the proposed policy, students would still be restricted to a maximum of 66 semester hours of lower division transfer work to apply toward a baccalaureate degree at the University of Houston. *Any lower division transfer work over 66 semester hours would be allowed to meet requirements, however, the 67th and subsequent credit hour would be disallowed.* If a student has transferred in more than 66 lower division transfer work, he would be required to take additional UH courses to meet the minimum of 120 credit hours toward graduation.

Example:

Current Policy	Proposed Policy
Student transfers in 76 hours of lower division credit.	Student transfers in 76 hours of lower division credit.
Only 66 credit hours will count toward the 120 minimum needed for a baccalaureate degree.	Only 66 credit hours will count toward the 120 minimum needed for a baccalaureate degree.

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All 76 hours fulfill specific UH requirements for areas such as core, major or minor requirements.	All 76 hours fulfill specific UH requirements for areas such as core, major or minor requirements.
Student has 66 credit hours toward her degree and needs 54 credit hours, minimally, to graduate.	Student has 66 credit hours toward her degree and needs 54 credit hours, minimally, to graduate.
Student must <i>retake</i> 10 (76 – 66) hours of lower level credit, possibly previously completed core courses, leaving her only 44 hours of upper-level courses.	Student is free to take as many as 54 credit hours in upper-level courses in consultation with her advisor and/or academic plan.

Summary:

In both the current and proposed policies, students are limited to counting only 66 lower division transfer credit toward their degrees. In the proposed policy students are free to take upper division courses and are not required to retake lower level credit. In both policies, the effects are the same: lower division transfer credit is restricted.