

Memorandum

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Academic Quality Committee (AQC)

DATE: 3-22-21

RE: Report by ARC-UCC Joint Task Force on BA/BS Requirements

In March 2021, AQC reviewed the ARC-UCC Joint Task Force on BA/BS Requirements Report and met with Michelle Gamburd, Senate Presiding Officer, and Peter Chaille, member of the ARC-UCC Joint Task Force, to discuss the report. Below is a summary of the main questions and comments posed by the Committee.

Although the Committee is in broad agreement with the recommendations contained in the Report and believes that the resulting Motions will benefit students, members are concerned about the following:

- The proposed changes seem to be directed primarily at Upper-Division transfer students, and their impact on students who start as first-year students at PSU but transfer in with Lower-Division credits (e.g., community college bridge programs, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate programs) is not discussed satisfactorily. In particular, these changes highlight a need for more extensive investigation into potential conflicts between transfer credits and the minimum skills required to meet appropriate degree training;
- The report indicates that some departments, in view of reduced demand for Upper-Division courses, may need to shift more teaching or major requirements to Lower-Division ones. If so, this will have repercussions for the appropriate level of instruction and content;
- Shifts in curricular demand of Upper-Division courses or offerings from Upper-Division to Lower-Division courses will have repercussions for departments' schedule planning. Consequently, the implementation of these changes needs to be clarified to mitigate any negative effect on enrollment in Upper-Division courses, such as faculty scrambling to offer alternative classes and reduction of the range of courses available to students in a given major;
- Finally, it is the Committee's belief that the matters discussed in the Report fall under the purview of discussions of academic quality conducted by the AQC.

2020-21 AQC Members: J.R. "Jones" Estes (UNST, AQC chair), Evguenia Davidova (IGS and UNST), Cassio de Oliveira (WLL), Michael Dimond (SB), Sahan Dissanayake (ECN), Karla Fant (CMP), Kathi Ketcheson (OIRP, Consultant), Jesse Locker (A+D), Kathleen Merrow (HON), Andreen Morris (OAA)