

Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2018

Present: Sarah Ash, Neal Parker, Angela Smith, David Auerbach, Robert Hayes
Darby Orcutt

Absent: Greg Young, Mary Beth Hawkins, Sophia Katharioiu, Helmut Hergeth, PK Lim, Sid
Thakur,

Guests: Jane Lubischer, Assistant Department Head, Biological Sciences; Erin Dixon, Senior
Associate Registrar

Topic: Double majors

Concern: There is no university policy regarding when/if a student can double major. Sometimes it can be too easy, requiring not that much more than selecting electives for one major from the other major's requirement list.

Why does that matter?

- ❖ It can put enrollment pressure on courses within a major. This happened when students started double majoring in Biology and Nutrition, significantly increasing the number of students in the Nutrition capstone course, a time-intensive course for the instructor.
- ❖ Students are getting two separate diplomas, that is two distinct degrees, for 120 hours of work. This seems to cheapen the whole concept of a degree, and does not add to their education.
- ❖ When administrators have asked to put restrictions on double majors in CODA, Registration and Records has asked for the regulation that governs the decision. R and R needs a policy on which to base decisions that are fair and consistent and understandable to students.

Other do other institutions do?

- ❖ Other universities have restrictions. For example, at UNCC a student can only have one BA and one BS; forces some students to take both calculus and a foreign language (NCSU doesn't have a policy on what is a BS and BA), which decreases the popularity of it.
- ❖ UNC-CH wants people to finish in 4 years so they discourage double majors (students will only get one degree); we are being measured on graduation rates so this makes sense.
- ❖ Some universities require a higher minimum credit hours for students completing two degrees (e.g., 150 cr for two degrees vs 120 cr for one degree).
- ❖ Some universities limit the amount of double-counted courses allowed.
- ❖ Every university defines the concept of degrees differently; NCSU is the outlier in not having any definition at all.

What could we do?

- ❖ Maybe have a cap on the number of shared courses. Look to other campuses. Are probably some SACS regulations around this?
- ❖ Should there be rules about total number of majors? Maybe have at most 3X: two majors and one minor or one major and two minors. That might help with enrollment issues in popular majors in PCOM. Or maybe students have to finish within X semesters (that could be problematic).
- ❖ Could have opportunities for individual as well as departmental exceptions.

Will a double major support industry's needs? Need to ask whether it serves a purpose for the future?

Next steps?

- ❖ How to determine which degree requirements should not be allowed to be double majors?
- We know the extremes: what to rule out, or not rule out.
- Look to other models (e.g., CSU) for how to fine tune.
- Ask about SACS to see if there are any over-arching issues.
- Erin: ask for data on two majors with the least number of hours.
- Ask Louis Hunt re what the process would be.
- Sarah Ash and Jane Lubischer will work on drafting some language after gathering information from the above.