

September 28, 2015

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE “SECONDARY MAJORS” FOR UNDERGRADUATES WHO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR THAT IS NOT PART OF THEIR DEGREE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Article V, Section A, Par. 2. of the Constitution of the University Faculty states in relevant part that the Faculty Senate shall make recommendations to the president for consideration and transmittal to the Board of Trustees with respect to standards of curricula and content for all degree programs; and

WHEREAS, the University presents itself to prospective undergraduates as a place where it is easy to pursue multiple, disparate interests; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2015, the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education, after consultation with the constituent faculties of the Undergraduate Program Faculty, voted to approve the proposal attached here as Exhibit A, to recognize a student’s completion of a major that is not part of his or her degree program; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2015, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee voted that said proposal, attached here as Exhibit A, be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Faculty Senate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Faculty Senate of Case Western Reserve University approves recognizing an undergraduate as having completed a “secondary major” when he or she has met all of the requirements for a major that is not part of the student’s degree program.

EXHIBIT A

PROPOSAL TO RECOGNIZE SECONDARY MAJORS

Case Western Reserve University presents itself to prospective undergraduates as a university where it is easy to pursue multiple, disparate interests. However, given the structure of our degree programs, students often find it difficult to earn recognition for completing a second (or subsequent) major not affiliated with their primary degree programs, as this would require that they become “dual degree” students. Some of the difficulties they encounter are differences in general education and other school-wide requirements¹ and the requirement of 30 additional credit-hours of coursework beyond those required for the first degree in order to earn a second degree.² Some students are dissuaded from completing substantial coursework in a second area of interest when it comes from a different degree program, while others, eager to earn credentials in the two fields while still graduating in eight semesters, are motivated to carry heavier semester course loads than would be wise. [A description of the structure of undergraduate degrees and majors at CWRU is included as an appendix.]

PROPOSAL: That the University recognize an undergraduate as having completed a “secondary major” when he or she has completed all of the requirements for a major that is not part of the student’s degree program, as described in the questions and answers below.

What requirements will a student have to meet to complete a secondary major?

A student will earn the designation of a secondary major for having completed the requirements of that major as Undergraduate Studies audits them for degree certification, but will not be expected to satisfy the general education and other requirements associated with the degree program that includes that major, except for those that serve as prerequisites for courses in the major.

A student will not have to complete credit-hours beyond those required for the primary degree program and any additional credit-hours needed to fulfill requirements for the secondary major.

Like minors, secondary majors will be optional. No student will be required to complete a secondary major.

¹ For example, candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 90 credit-hours of coursework in arts and sciences courses, reduced to 84 for students completing both the BA and BS degrees.

² “To qualify for two undergraduate degrees, i.e., a BA and a BS degree, or two BS degrees, a student must satisfy all requirements for each degree, and complete for the second degree thirty semester hours of study beyond the hours required for the first degree. A student may, however, complete two or more Arts and Sciences majors within the 120 hour minimum requirement for the BA degree, or two or more Engineering majors within the 128-133 hour minimum requirement for the BS in Engineering degree, or two or more Management majors within the 122 hour minimum requirement for the BS in Management degree.” [General Bulletin, 2014-2015]

Will schools or departments need to do anything to create a secondary major?

No. The requirements for each existing major will carry over and serve as the requirements for students from other degree programs who wish to complete a secondary major in the field.

If a department wishes to include one or more elements of the general education requirements as part of the major, it may do so by redefining major requirements for all students, regardless of degree program, to include those courses, following the usual process for changing major requirements.

Some majors have different requirements for the BA and BS degrees. How will this be handled for students wishing to complete a secondary major in the field?

In these cases, the BA requirements will serve as the requirements for a secondary major, just as they do now for a student completing two majors within the BA degree.

Some majors in different degree programs are sufficiently similar that a student should not be eligible for recognition for having completed both. How will this be handled?

This will be handled across degree programs in the same way that it is currently handled for majors and minors within degree programs. Departments with concerns about students earning multiple credentials for essentially the same coursework may set limits on the number of courses that may double-count for its major and another major or minor, following the usual process for changing major requirements. This is already common, but not universal, within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Just as we do not currently allow a student to earn both a major and a minor in the same field, we will not allow a student to earn both a BS degree and a secondary major in the same field.

Will students still have the option to earn more than one degree?

Yes, students will still be able to pursue multiple degrees under the current rules. They must meet all of the requirements of each degree programs, including the general education and other school-wide requirements, and must earn for the each additional degree at least 30 additional credit-hours of coursework beyond those required for the first degree. This proposal does not eliminate any of the options currently available to students and will still be attractive for certain combinations of interests.

Will secondary majors be recorded on transcripts and diplomas?

Yes. Just as majors and minors are currently recorded on transcripts, secondary majors will also be recorded on transcripts, but with clear indication that they were completed as secondary majors not as parts of the full degree programs that include those majors.

Like primary majors, secondary majors will be recorded on a student's diploma, but separate from the major field(s) associated with the degree program. A separate line with the designation "Secondary Major: _____" will list the secondary major(s) that a student completed. See the attached mock-up as an example.

Will students be assigned advisors in their secondary majors?

Yes. Advisors for secondary majors will have access to the same information in SIS as is currently available to major and minor advisors. However, as is currently the case for minors, advisors for secondary majors will not be able to lift advising holds for registration. Only advisors for majors affiliated with a student's degree program(s) will be able to lift advising holds.

What is the anticipated timeline for introducing secondary majors?

Candidates for undergraduate degrees awarded in May 2017 or later may begin declaring secondary majors during the Fall Term 2016.

Why not simply eliminate the 30 credit-hour requirement for dual degrees?

There are three reasons for not eliminating the requirement of 30 additional credit-hours for dual degrees.

This appears to be the industry norm. It is common for colleges and universities to require the equivalent of an additional year of work for students who wish to receive two undergraduate degrees. This alone is not a reason for CWRU not to give up this requirement, but merely a reason to be cautious before doing so.

We should seek to be neutral across the various fields that students wish to pursue and combine. Currently, it is easy to combine two fields within the same degree program (e.g. economics and political science or psychology), but difficult to combine two from different degree programs (e.g. economics and finance). Eliminating the 30-additional-credit-hour requirement would flip this non-neutrality and may distort students' choices about fields to combine by making combinations from different degree programs more attractive than combinations within a degree program in that students would earn two degrees and receive two diplomas.

The requirement of 30 additional credit-hours of coursework is not always the binding constraint on students wishing to pursue multiple fields of study.

Have other universities taken similar steps to allow students to complete majors from different degree programs?

One example is Stanford University, which created a degree called the Bachelor of Arts and Science in addition to its Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees (see <http://exploreddegrees.stanford.edu/undergraduatedegreesandprograms/#bachelorstext>). Under this

degree program, students may pursue multiple majors across traditional degree programs within the standard number of credit-hours required for a single degree. Students may also choose to pursue two degrees, the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science, but are required to complete an extra year of credit-hours to do so.

The specifics of the Stanford solution would not work at CWRU because we do not offer a single Bachelor of Science degree, but rather many different Bachelor of Science degrees that include “in X” as part of the name of the degree.

APPENDIX: Structures of Undergraduate Degrees and Majors at CWRU

February 2014

The chart below lists the academic unit responsible for the requirements for undergraduate degrees/majors at CWRU.

	Single Degree, Single Major	Single Degree, Multiple Majors (within the same degree program)	Multiple Degrees, Multiple Majors
General Education Requirements	Set at the Degree Program level	Set at the Degree Program level	Set at the level of Degree Program #1
General Education Requirements	--	--	Set at the level of Degree Program #2
Major Field Requirements	Set at the level of the Major	Set at the level of Major 1	Set at the level of Major 1
Major Field Requirements	--	Set at the level of Major 2	Set at the level of Major 2
Major Field Requirements	--	Other major-level requirements (if applicable)	Other major-level requirements (if applicable)
Other Requirements	--	--	At least 30 credit hours beyond the first degree, for each additional degree
Examples	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelors of Arts, Major Field: English 2. Bachelors of Science in Chemistry 3. Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Major Field: Mechanical Engineering 4. Bachelors of Science in Nursing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelors of Arts, Major Fields: English and Political Science 2. Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Major Fields: Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachelors of Science in Management, Major Field: Finance; and, Bachelors of Arts, Major Field: Economics 2. Bachelors of Science in Chemistry; and, Bachelors of Science in Engineering, Major Field: Chemical Engineering

Proposed Additional Structure

	Single Degree with a Primary Major, and a Secondary Major from a Different Degree Program
General Education Requirements	Set at the level of the Degree Program for the Primary Major
General Education Requirements	--
Major Field Requirements	Set at the level of the Primary Major
Major Field Requirements	Set at the level of the Secondary Major
Other Requirements	--
Example	Bachelors of Science in Management Major Field: Finance; Secondary Major: Economics



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

On the recommendation of the Faculty of
The Case School of Engineering
The Trustees of the University have admitted

NAME

to the Degree of

Bachelor of Science in Engineering

Major Field: Mechanical Engineering

Secondary Major: History

Given at Cleveland Ohio August fifteenth Two Thousand Fourteen

Barbara R. Snyder
President

Jeffrey L. Dworkin
Dean