

University Curriculum Committee

Report 4/9/15

Chair: Alistair Welchman

Three issues are before the UCC:

1. Removal of restrictions on Military Science (and Aerospace Studies) courses (tabled from March). The UCC's recommendation is unchanged: we recommend removing the restrictions.
2. Minor in Civic Engagement. The UCC unanimously recommends accepting this new minor.
3. BA in Multicultural Early Childhood Education. Not all members of the UCC have had time to study this, and we request tabling the vote until May.

Removal of restrictions on Military Science

The UCC received a memo from Larry Williams, Vice Provost and Dean of University College on 2/17 urging the removal of restrictions on Military Science courses. Currently a maximum of 9 hours of Military Science courses can be applied to the free electives of a UTSA BA degree (and the regulation is interpreted as applying to Aerospace Studies courses as well). The Associate Deans' Council met supports the removal of this restriction. In the memo, Dr Williams outlines several reasons for relaxing this restriction:

1. There's no indication what the rationale for the limitation is
2. UTSA offers minors that require more than 9 hours of military science courses. So it's unclear why only 9 hours can be applied to majors.
3. The quality of the courses is comparable with other free electives, and they stress important skills like leadership.
4. ROTC and Air Force ROTC cadets must take more than 9 hours of MSC/ASC courses to be commissioned. The restriction prevents cadets from applying these extra credits to the free electives of their majors. This places an unnecessary burden on these students.
5. Lifting the general restriction does not stop departments from imposing their own restrictions if appropriate.

In response to questions from Senators, Jim Dykes (Senate Parliamentarian) and Barbara Smith (Executive Director of Advising) have helpfully provided the following information:

1. Although no rationale is given for the restriction, it is in the context of a restriction of physical activities courses.
2. More than 150 students are affected.

3. Non-ROTC students don't usually take the courses. But there are various non-ROTC groups that are affected:
 - a. Students who drop out of the ROTC program, either at UTSA or at another school who transfer to UTSA. Note that students who receive a scholarship cannot drop out.
 - b. Veterans who transfer credit from their military transcripts to MSC or ASC courses.
4. It is true that in some cases ROTC students must complete more than 120h to get their degrees as a result of the restrictions.
5. ROTC can, but do not have to, take the Military/Aerospace Science minors. If they do, the restrictions still apply to their majors. Army ROTC students who take the minor fulfill all the course requirements for taking up a commission (and Air Force ROTC students fulfill nearly all of them).
6. A higher cap would still be helpful, if the Senate does not want to lift the restrictions entirely.

The UCC still recommends that the Senate agree to lift the restriction, with no committee member changing their vote.

Minor in Civic Engagement

This proposal from the College of Public Policy was forwarded to the UCC by Larry Williams on March 10th. It is supported by the Dean of CoPP, by Larry Williams and by Jude Valadez, Vice President for Community Service, who mentions UTSA's recent recognition in the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.

The minor introduces two new courses, an introductory Foundations of Civic Engagement and a capstone Civic Leadership Integrative Seminar that offers students a service-learning opportunity, and has two competencies: Diversity of Communities and Civic Infrastructure that mandate different selections of existing courses from a wide array of departments.

The UCC was enthusiastic about this proposal, and all 5 members who voted were in favor.

BA in Multicultural Early Childhood Education

The UCC has not had time to evaluate this proposal and requests that the approval be tabled until the May meeting of the Senate.