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Office of the Dean

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TO: University Programs Committee

FROM: Barbara Brothers, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

DATE: 6 December 1995

SUBJECT: WCBA Curriculum Proposal

The College of Arts and Sciences requests that the WCBA curriculum proposal be returned to the College, pending necessary discussions with Arts and Sciences departments affected by the proposal.

1. General discussion with all science departments is needed over the philosophy of requiring non-majors to take a laboratory science. Non-lab courses were designed for and are those taken by most non-majors filling their science requirement. Both philosophy and resources need to be discussed before the proposal moves forward. In addition, the general education revision committee should be consulted to determine where they are in the process. To change requirements, when additional changes in the area may be approved shortly may cause unnecessary confusion.
2. WCBA has already been contacted about a meeting of their curriculum committee to discuss similar issues in regards to the change in required statistics courses. While the explanation for including the new psychology research/statistics as an option is clear, we do not know how many sections will be needed to meet that particular demand. In the case of the mathematics option, we are not clear why the option is being provided. What differences do you see between the courses? What are the options you desire to provide? What do you want your students to know about statistics and what applications do you want them to be familiar with? Again we need to know about numbers and consider resources.
3. What resources will be required for staffing Business Ethics? Are there existing WCBA faculty who will need to be assigned the course? Should we consider cross appointments for these faculty?
4. Have you discussed with English why you are no longer going to require a literature course? Is there a change in desired outcomes--proficiencies or conversancies--for WCBA graduates?

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If there are other A & S areas affected, I would raise the same issues and urge dialogue. A & S departments should listen to what is desired and respond with what is possible. I see this as an ongoing process.

BB:mm

cc: Betty Jo Licata
Bill Jenkins
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