CAMPUS SENATE AY97/98

RESOLUTION 27-13

RESOLUTION TO REVISE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE OFFERING OF DOUBLE MAJORS BY GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Section 1. Overview
This bill revises previous university policy regarding the offering of double majors at the graduate level (see UAB 23-2; October, 1993). This bill provides curricular standards for double majors and encourages the development of high quality, integrated programs of study for students seeking a masters degree that integrates and synthesizes two academic disciplines.

Section 2. Double Major Policy
To ensure the highest level of quality is maintained at the graduate level, curricular requirements for the double major should include courses that address the foundation knowledge of each field of study, practicum experiences (when applicable) that allow for applications of both fields of study, and a jointly approved closure exercise (or exercises) linked to the fields of study.

Elective courses included in the double major should allow for further specialization across the fields of study. The total number of hours required for a double major should reflect adequate coverage of both fields of study and maintain the academic integrity of a double major degree.
**Section 3. Articulation Agreement**

Programs interested in offering a double major should jointly develop an articulation agreement. The articulation agreement should specify the coursework from both programs that is required for the double major, the internship(s) required (if applicable), the closure exercise(s) required, and the elective courses that may be selected for the double major. Articulation agreements should be submitted to the appropriate School Curriculum Committee(s), Dean(s), Graduate Council, and Provost for approval. Once approved, articulation agreements should be submitted to the Registrar for record keeping. Articulation agreements between graduate programs will address the questions provided in the Articulation Agreement Guidelines.

**Section 4. Closure Requirements**

Programs offering a double major are expected to develop a jointly approved closure exercise. Closure requirements for the double major may involve a joint closure exercise or may involve separate closure exercises in the two major fields of study.

**Section 5. Joint Closure Committee**

A joint closure committee should be formed by the two programs offering the double major. This committee should be composed of a minimum of one representative from each program and one or two Dean's representatives (the number depending on whether the two programs are from the same versus different schools). This closure committee should oversee a joint educational plan developed for the student pursuing the double major, prescribe the closure exercise(s), and approve the closure exercise(s) in the final form.

**Section 6. Double Major Diploma**

Irrespective of the form of the closure exercise(s) prescribed by the joint closure committee, one
diploma will be granted. The two major fields will be specified on the student's transcript.

Rationale
The double major policy was designed to meet student interest regarding double majors at the graduate level while maintaining the curricular integrity of each area of study. Student interest, coupled with recent experience with current policy, motivated this revision to existing policy.

Discussion
The discipline standards of some programs limit anything other than completion of full degree requirements. In other cases, academic programs that have little in common with one another may not lend themselves to an integrated degree. Programs which are complimentary with one another, however, also exist; and it is within their academic history to allow some course overlap. This policy address to what extent overlap is possible for a double major at the graduate level.
ARTICULATION AGREEMENT GUIDELINES FOR DOUBLE MAJORS AT THE MASTERS LEVEL

Articulation agreements for double majors at the masters level should address the following questions:

1. How does the proposed double major curriculum provide coverage of the foundation (core courses, foundation courses, etc) for Degree A?

2. How does the proposed double major curriculum provide coverage of the foundation knowledge (core courses, foundation courses, etc) for Degree B?

3. How does the proposed double major curriculum allow for further specialization via elective courses across the two fields of study?

4. How is the proposed closure exercise (or exercises) linked with the two fields of study?

5. When applicable, how does the proposed practicum(s) allow for applications from both fields of study.

6. How does the proposed double major curriculum fulfill degree requirements for Degree A? For Degree B?