RESOLUTION 31-1

RESOLUTION REGARDING REQUIRED UPPER DIVISION HOURS, TRANSFER HOURS FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE COURSE NUMBERING & CREDIT HOUR FORMAT FOR BRIDGE COURSES

Section I. Overview

This bill revises the university policies regarding the number of required upper division credit hours and the number of credit hours that can be transferred from community colleges. Additionally, the bill proposes that bridge courses for the Capital Scholars Program be offered at the 200 level and whenever possible, in a 3 hour format.

Section II. Required Upper Division Hours

The required number of upper division credit hours should be changed from 60 to 48 hours.

Section III. Transfer Hours From Community Colleges

The number of credit hours that can be transferred from community colleges should remain limited to 60 hours. The current 12 hour petition process policy should remain in effect resulting in a maximum transfer of 72 hours of community college credit.

Section IV. 200 Level / 3 Credit Hour Lower Division Courses

In general, bridge courses for the Capital Scholars Program should be target at the 200 level in accordance with current UIS numbering guidelines, in addition, lower division courses should be offered in a 3 hour format. Exceptions for laboratory courses or other courses of a clinical or practicum nature may be made. This recommendation is predicted on the distinction previously affirmed by the administration that faculty workload hours and student credit hours are distinct and that faculty workload will remain at 3 courses per semester despite the reduction in credit hours for some courses. (See Resolution 30-14 passed by Campus Senate on 4/13/01.)
Rationale:

It is the general sense of the Undergraduate Council that, in preparation for the arrival of freshman on this campus next fall, these three interrelated policy changes or clarifications related to curriculum issues should be implemented.

**Required Upper Division Hours & Transfer Hours From Community Colleges**

Changing the number of required upper division credit hours from 60 to 48 hours and limiting the number of credit hours that can be transferred from community colleges to a maximum of 72 hours would benefit students and the university in the following ways:

1. It would allow transfer students and CAPS students greater flexibility in choosing their discipline area because some lower division preparatory courses could be taken in their junior year without undue penalties.
2. It would accommodate the needs of students in the Capital Scholars Program whose course load may exceed 60 hours at the lower division level.
3. It would foster a more accurate labeling of course levels (i.e. introductory courses currently offered at the 300 level could be renumbered more appropriately as lower division courses without excluding transfer student enrollments).
4. It would conform with current practices at other universities.

**200 Level / 3 Credit Hour Lower Division Courses**

Requiring that bridge courses targeted for Capital Scholars comply with the current UIS numbering guidelines for 200 level courses would benefit students and the university in the following ways:

1. It would encourage a more accurate labeling of courses, meaning that the bridge courses are, “Open to any student who has completed the 100-level prerequisites, if any.”
2. If the required number of upper division credit hours are lowered to 48 hours, this would result in the Capital Scholars bridge courses also being accessible to UIS transfer students.
3. Consistency in course numbering would enhance system wide reporting when the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software has been fully implemented at all three campuses.

Requiring that lower division courses be offered, whenever possible, in a 3 hour format would benefit students and the university in the following ways:

1. This practice would complement the 3 hour course structure currently in place for the Capital Scholars Program core curriculum.
2. This practice is equivalent to that of most community colleges and four-year universities where transfer students will have completed their lower division course work prior to arriving at UIS.

3. This practice provides students with greater breadth at the lower division level.