UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
CAMPUS SENATE AY 2002/2003
RESOLUTION 32-1

Resolution Regarding Transfer Hours from Community Colleges

By a vote of 6-0, Undergraduate Council recommends amendment to University Assembly Bill 3-1 “Use of Lower Division Courses to Meet Bachelor’s Requirements” resulting in catalog copy changes as indicated below:

Subject to departmental policy, community college transfer students may include an additional 12 semester hours of lower division credit toward a bachelor’s degree with the approval of their adviser, a program representative, and the appropriate dean. A grade of C or better must have been earned.
Rationale for the proposed changes include the following:

1. **Difficulty with the old policy:**

Several questions have arisen concerning the meaning, fairness and difficulty of implementation for this policy as written. The application of a university-wide policy that applies to diverse departments and colleges within the UIS community limits the ability of these units to meet the unique requirements of their programs. Some specific examples of the kinds of problems encountered are provided below:

- **Interpretation issues:**

  There are multiple interpretations about the meaning of the term “upper division status” specified as a qualifier in the original catalog copy. Interpretations offered include:

  - a student with 45 hours including 3 hours of English composition (minimum requirement for admission to UIS)
  - a student with 60 or more hours and an Associate degree
  - a student with 60 or more hours and no Associate degree

- **Implementation issues:**

  The current policy specifies that courses counted for upper division status *not* be used towards a previous degree. This stipulation requires that advisers pursue documentation from the community college to identify which courses have or have not been used for a previous degree. This documentation requirement is burdensome both for the adviser and the community college who must furnish it. The value of this stipulation is unclear.

  The Council has been unable to uncover the original reason for this stipulation. It has been speculated that the stipulation was an attempt to safe-guard against “double-counting”. Double-counting, however, is really not an issue here. All students must earn a minimum of 120 hours to graduate. Each course is only counted once in the total tally. Consequently, the student’s status or the course’s applicability to a previous degree has limited relevance.
Essentially, the Council is recommending that we adopt a model similar to the situation of a Doctoral program in which the Master’s degree is earned along the way. One set of courses applies to the Master’s degree. All or some subset of those Master’s courses plus additional advanced work leads to the Doctoral degree.

2. **Academic Integrity:**

One concern that has been expressed by others is that the removal of the stipulations in the current policy would result in lower academic standards. The Council believes, however, that the retention of the petition process for transferring community college credit maintains academic integrity. In addition, by removing the upper division & previous degree stipulations, colleges are free to implement policies that include restrictions that will complement the goals and objectives of their degree programs. For example, one degree program may decide that community college transfer hours should only apply to general education courses while another degree program may choose to accept only pre-requisite courses in the major. *The Council would encourage colleges and departments to adopt restrictions they deem appropriate. The revision proposed is written specifically to accommodate such restrictions.*

3. **Number of Transferable Hours:**

The Undergraduate Council spent considerable time discussing the number of transferable hours given our recommended policy revisions. While 12 hours is at the upper end of the range of practice for other public universities in Illinois, we believe it is appropriate to retain this number at this time. A number of UIS degree programs currently rely on this policy to enable students to complete their general education requirements. Given the small number of general education courses available at UIS at this time, 12 hours seems appropriate. However, as UIS moves closer to becoming a true four-year institution with an increased number of lower division general education course offerings, the appropriate number of transfer hours should be re-evaluated.