UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY BILL 18-3

A BILL TO CHANGE THE BACHELOR DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Legislative History:
1. 4-12-85 the Task Force on Liberal Arts Colloquia (LACs) sends report to the University Community recommending LACs.
2. Spring 1987 the Undergraduate Council begins discussion of upper division requirements for the Bachelor Degree.
3. Fall 1987 the Faculty Senate charges the Undergraduate Council to review the upper division requirements for the Bachelor Degree.
4. 1987-88 the AST begins a self-study and evaluation for the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
5. Fall 1988 the AST completes self-study and evaluation.
6. Fall 1988 the Faculty Senate charges the Undergraduate Council to review the upper division requirements for the Bachelor Degree.
7. 11-15-88 the VPAA and Deans send a recommendation to the University community regarding upper division requirements for the Bachelor Degree.
8. 1-27-89 the Undergraduate Council approved changes in the upper division requirements for the Bachelor Degree.
9. 2-3-89 the Faculty Senate Steering Committee reviewed the bill and approved submission to the Senate.
10. 2-10-89 passed the Faculty Senate
11. 3-10-89 passed the Staff Senate.
12. 4-6-89 passed the Student Senate.

Section 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to revise the bachelor degree requirements and to propose language adjusting the catalogue to fit these change.
Section 2. POLICY CHANGES

Part A. University Requirements

Students are required to complete a minimum of 12 semester hours of University Requirements in the areas of liberal studies, public affairs, and applied study. The 12 semester hours must include at least 4 hours in each of at least two of these areas. Academic programs may determine which areas are appropriate for their students. In programs which do not specify a distribution of courses among the three areas, each student and the advisor and program must agree on a fitting distribution of courses for that student before the student completes 30 hours of upper division work. Program requirements, equivalent course work, and equivalent learning from prior experience will be used in reaching this agreement.

Part B. Liberal Studies Colloquia (LSCs)

The Liberal Studies Colloquia are multi-disciplinary courses that engage important issues using points of view and value systems that extend beyond the usual cultural and disciplinary boundaries and contents. Where possible students will study and discuss primary works which have significance beyond a single discipline.

Each semester a number of different colloquia are offered. There are no prerequisites for any of the colloquia. The choice of a LSC is the student’s prerogative; however, students are encouraged to select LSCs with focuses outside their major programs. Descriptions of LSCs are published each semester in the course schedule.

Part C. Public Affairs Colloquia (PACs)

Sangamon State University features a unique series of courses called Public Affairs Colloquia. Each semester a number of different colloquia are offered, with several objectives in mind; explore and cultivate an informed awareness of contemporary public issues and situations, provide an interdisciplinary approach to issues for wider understanding and for stronger research and problem-solving skills, investigate the formulation and implementation of public policy and to realize the multi-disciplinary consequences of policy making. There are no prerequisites for any of the colloquia.

The choice of a PAC is the student’s prerogative; however, students are encouraged to select PACs with focuses outside their major programs. Descriptions of PACs are published each semester in the course schedule.

Part D. Applied Study and Experiential Learning Term

The Applied Study and Experiential Learning Term (AST) gives students the opportunity to relate academic learning to practical experience. Through the AST, students have the opportunity either to experiment with career options or to broaden and expand a current area of expertise. The AST process emphasizes the development of
skills in planning, evaluation and independent learning. Critical to the concept of the AST is the integration of theoretical knowledge with applied skills.

Students should consult with their academic advisers the AST on the integration of their academic studies and experiential learning. It is recommended that at least 12 semester hours of credit in the student’s major should be completed before enrolling in the AST.

Part E. General Requirements: Bachelor’s Degree

To earn a bachelor’s degree from Sangamon State University, a student must fulfill the following requirements:

- Earn 60 semester hours of credit at the upper-division level.
- Earn a minimum of 30 semester hours credit in resident at Sangamon State.
- Satisfy General Education Requirements (see pp31-31).
- Satisfy University requirement regarding PAC, LSC, and AST of at least twelve semester hours.
- Receive certification of adequacy in communication skills from the program conferring the bachelor’s degree.
- Complete course work with a cumulative Sangamon State grade point average of at least 2.0.
- Complete successfully the Illinois and United States Constitution examinations in order to satisfy the requirements of Illinois School Code Sec. 27.3 (Must be completed at the collegiate level.)
- Fulfill all academic program requirements.
- Complete the Graduation Contract.
- Pay a graduate fee of $20 (subject to change).

Section 3. CATALOG CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY CHANGES.

Part A. Title of Degree Requirements Section (p.36)
Change title of section from “Degree Requirements” to “Bachelor’s Degree Requirements”.

Part B. Placement of new “Bachelor’s Degree Requirements” section.
New “Bachelor’s Degree Requirements” section will follow the “Undergraduate Admission” section and precede the “Undergraduate Degree Programs and Areas of Study” section (p. 34).

Part C. Placement of “Purpose: Bachelor’s Degree” section (p. 39)
Existing “Statement of Purpose: Bachelor’s Degree” section will be placed first following the new heading “Bachelor’s Degree Requirements” (p. 36).
Part D. Placement of the new “University Requirements” section
Place the new “University Requirements” section in position following newly placed (Part C. immediately above) “Statement of Purpose: Bachelor’s Degree” (p. 36)

Part E. Placement of new “Liberal Studies Colloquia” section
Place new “Liberal Studies Colloquia” section in position following “Catalog Requirements and preceding “Public Affairs Colloquia” (PACs) (p. 37).

Part F. Placement of “Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science University honors” section (p. 38).
Insert this section as the first section under the heading “Academic Standards” (p. 39).

Section 4. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester 89</td>
<td>Senate and University Approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester 89</td>
<td>Appointment of LSC, PAC, and ASC Curriculum Committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester 89</td>
<td>Undergraduate programs revise program requirements and Catalogue copy for inclusion in the 1990-91 catalogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Semester 89</td>
<td>Curriculum Committees solicit course proposals for Fall 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester 90</td>
<td>Curriculum Committees approve courses for Fall 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester 90</td>
<td>Curriculum Committees approve program waiver policies for Fall 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Semester 90</td>
<td>Undergraduate Council reviews curriculum Committees’ actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Semester 90</td>
<td>Faculty given NIAs for course preparation for Fall 1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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RATIONALE:
The bill is the result of faculty and administration discussion that began in the academic year 1984-85 with the consideration of the Liberal Arts Colloquia (now titled the Liberal Studies Colloquia). The Undergraduate Council has discussed the upper division requirements for two years. The Undergraduate Council has approved this bill. The Council believes these University requirements concerning liberal studies, public affairs, and applied study will serve the educational needs of the students better than the previous requirements.