UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY BILL 23-2

A BILL TO ESTABLISH UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING
THE OFFERING OF DOUBLE MAJORS BY GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Section 1. Overview
This bill establishes a university policy regarding the offering of double majors at the graduate level. This bill is intended to provide minimum standards for double majors and to encourage both students and program faculty, when academically acceptable, to encourage innovative and educationally legitimate linkages between the curricula of academic programs.

Section 2. Double Major Policy
In order to qualify for a double major, the student must take the core courses (or equivalent courses based on program approval) from both programs. Course waivers for non-core courses for a double major may be issued as long as the total number of hours waived does not exceed the total number of non-core course hours from the program having the lower number of non-core course hours.

Section 3. Articulation Agreement
Programs interested in offering a double major should jointly develop an articulation agreement which specifies their double major policy. The articulation agreement should specify any additional requirements concerning the double major. Articulation agreements should be submitted to the appropriate School Curriculum Committee(s), Dean(s), Graduate Council, and VPAA for approval and, once approved, to the Registrar for record keeping.

Section 4. Closure Requirements
Programs offering a double major are expected to develop a jointly-approved closure requirement. This closure requirement may involve a joint closure exercise or may involve separate closure exercises in the two major fields.
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 choice representatives (the number depending on whether the two programs are from the same versus different schools). This committee should oversee a joint educational plan developed for the student pursuing the double major, prescribe the closure exercises(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

There is increasing demand for information concerning double majors at the graduate level. This demand, coupled with a lack of policy and the ambiguity of previous interpretations regarding double majors necessitates development of a policy regarding double majors. The necessity for defining the minimum criteria for granting a double major is apparent.

Discussion

Some programs exist where discipline standards would prohibit anything less than completion of full degree requirements. Other combinations of programs exist where it makes little sense to offer double majors. Combinations of programs which are complementary, however, also exist; and it is within their academic history to allow some course overlap. This specific policy addresses to what extent overlap is possible for a double major at the graduate level.