Final Report of the Weinberg Curricular Policies Committee for 2017-2018

June 25, 2018

The Weinberg College Curricular Policies Committee studies and makes recommendations to the faculty about policy matters above the level of individual courses. These include degree requirements, systems of course credit and grading, the creation of department and program majors and minors, and rules and regulations affecting the College’s academic programs. The committee met five times this academic year.

Minors

Art Theory and Practice
In Spring 2018, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Department of Art Theory and Practice for the introduction of an Art Theory and Practice minor. The proposal was approved by the committee as an item to be presented to the Weinberg College faculty for a first reading during the coming academic year.

Data Science
In Spring 2018, the committee reviewed a proposal from the Department of Statistics for the introduction of a Data Science minor. The proposal was approved by the committee as an item to be presented to the Weinberg College faculty for a first reading during the coming academic year.

Weinberg College Policies

Online courses

Background
In 2014-2015 the Weinberg College Curricular Policies Committee developed a general policy for approvals of online courses offered by the School of Professional Studies (SPS) in areas for which Weinberg College has oversight. The committee decided that during the first year online SPS courses in business fields were offered, these business courses should be open only to SPS students even if equivalent courses not taught online could be taken by students in the College as non-Weinberg elective credits. This decision included (1) a provision that exceptions could be authorized for students in special situations, and (2) a recommendation the restriction for online business courses be re-evaluated for future years.

Outcome
The CPC revisited the question and decided to lift the special College restriction on online SPS courses in business fields; these courses are currently subject to the review and approval by the Kapnick Center for Business Institutions. All online SPS courses subject to Weinberg College oversight are now governed by one approval policy.
**Number of Weinberg College Courses**

CPC endorsed revising the wording of the policy that restricts the number of credits in areas outside Weinberg College that may be applied towards the 45 units required for the degree. Instead of an 11-unit limit in non-Weinberg coursework, the Undergraduate Catalog and text on the Weinberg College webpage will instead state that a minimum of 34 units (out of 45) must be completed in Weinberg College disciplines. Revising the wording will not change what a student must complete for the bachelors degree, but will make it easier for students to keep track of their academic progress.

**Other**

**Economics CIP code**

The CPC reviewed a proposal from the Department of Economics to change how their undergraduate economics program is characterized by the federal government classification of instructional programs (CIP). The recommendation is to change from CIP code 45.0601 to CIP code 45.0603 (“Econometrics and Quantitative Economics”). The committee voted to endorse this plan to central administration.

**Comment on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Degree Requirements**

The CPC reviewed the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Degree Requirements and gave feedback to Weinberg College administration about the next steps to take based on the report.

**Certificates**

The CPC considered the question of whether the College, which currently offers only majors and minors, should also offer official Northwestern “certificates” as defined by the Office of the Provost. The decision was to revisit this question at some time in the future, after the consideration and implementation of any changes resulting from the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Degree Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

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