Fulton School Curriculum Reform: A Brief Summary

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The Faculty Senate endorsed the University Curriculum Committee’s approval of two facets of the comprehensive curricular reform in the Fulton School:

1. The establishment of three “pilot” programs (Art, Philosophy, and Political Science) that will replace 3-credit courses with enhanced, 4-credit courses.
2. The adjustment of the Fulton School portion of General Education, currently Groups I and II, in order to accommodate 4-credit courses within our school and to reduce the credits required in these categories from 30 to 26-28.

The pilot programs will begin in fall 2007; the change in General Education will become effective in fall 2008.

Some Background:

- The University Curriculum Committee and the Provost have determined that the proposed course enhancements are consistent with COMAR Regulations.
- The Provost has stated that curriculum reform will proceed if, and only if, the costs are manageable.
- The changes in General Education are modest and are designed simply to accommodate curriculum reform in the Fulton School. General Education Groups I and II will be reduced from the current ten courses and 30 credits to seven courses and 26-28 credits.
- The Fulton School is providing syllabi for all “enhanced” courses to the University Curriculum Committee; comprehensive reform has not received special consideration.
- 80% of Fulton School faculty voted in November in favor of the reform initiative (100 to 24; one abstention).

Course Enhancements and COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations)

Fulton courses will be converted to 4-credit courses by implementing one or more of the following enhancement options:

1. Increased course content and/or collateral readings
2. Undergraduate Research and Information Literacy
3. Technology
4. Higher Level Critical Thinking Exercises (analysis, synthesis and evaluation)
5. Service Learning/Civic Engagement
6. International Education/Cultural Enrichment
7. Additional hour(s) in class, lab or studio

Following COMAR regulations, course enhancements will require one extra hour per week of class time, or two extra hours per week of studio time, or three extra hours per week of supervised, documented learning outside the classroom.
Changes to Fulton School portion of General Education,
Groups I and II

Current General Education, Groups I and II,
30 credits/10 courses

GROUP I - 15 HOURS/5 COURSES
A. English 101 3 ______
   English 102 3 ______
   LITERATURE (in English or Mod. Languages) 3 ______
B. Art, Communication and Theatre Arts, Dance,
   Modern Languages, Music, Philosophy
   (6 hours from at least two departments)
   ______________________________________ 3 ______
   ______________________________________ 3 ______

GROUP II - 15 HOURS/5 COURSES
A. History 101 3 ______
   History 102 3 ______
B. Nine credits hours from three of the following departments: Anthropology, Economics, ENVR
   150, History, Human Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology/Conflict Analysis and
   Dispute Resolution
   ______________________________________ 3 ______
   ______________________________________ 3 ______
   ______________________________________ 3 ______

Proposed Changes to General Education, Groups I and II,
26-28 credits/7 courses

Group I—English Composition and Literature (2 courses)
A. ENGL 101…………………………………………………………………………………..4 credits
B. One literature course (in either English or Modern Languages)………………………….4 credits

Group II—History (2 courses)
A. HIST 101, 102 or 103……………………………………………………………………….4 credits
B. HIST 101, 102, 103 or a History course above 103…………………………………………4 credits

Group III—Humanities and Social Sciences (3 courses)
Complete one course from each of the following three groups. The three groups must come
from three different departments.
A. Select one course from Art, Communication/Theatre Arts, Dance,
   Modern Languages, Music, or Philosophy…………………………………………….4 credits

B. Select one course from Anthropology, Economics, Human Geography
   (NOT Physical Geography), Political Science, Psychology,
   Sociology/Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution…………………………………3-4 credits

C. Select one course from either group A or group B……………………………………3-4 credits