

MEMO

TO: COS Executive Committee

FROM: COS Curriculum Committee

SUBJECT: Majority in lieu of unanimity for Approvals of Course and Degree Proposals

DATE: April 19, 2007

At present the Standing Rules of the College of Science require an unanimous vote of the departmental representatives of the Curriculum Committee for approval of course and degree proposals. Section 1b of the present Standing Rule is as follows (cos.gmu.edu/general/cos_rules_final):

Departments which propose courses or programs that would have an impact on other departments must consult with those departments before submitting their proposal to the committee. The committee shall issue a report to the Faculty on a monthly basis listing all actions it has taken since the previous report. All decisions made by the Curriculum Committee will be reviewed by the Executive Council unless the vote of the Committee is unanimous. Committee decisions with which a specific Department disagrees will be referred to the Executive Council for adjudication. Members of this committee may succeed themselves.

The membership of the Curriculum Committee would like to recommend an amendment to the Standing Rules which would allow a positive vote of 80% or greater to allow approval without adjudication of the matters to the Executive Committee for further review.

The Curriculum Committee feels that sufficient procedural measures are in place in the application process to ensure adequate discussion and resolution of disputes between departments. Because of this it seems inappropriate to withhold approval of courses or degree proposals when in the view of the majority the committee a proposal has met the standards necessary to be part of the College of Sciences academic program.

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