

Report to Faculty Senate by Special Committee on Minors

James Baglama, Lisa DiPippo,
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Jack Humphrey, Joelle Rollo-Koster, Mark Stolt

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Context

March 21, 2019

Accelerated Bachelor's to
Master's and New Business

- * Double-counting in ABM vs. minor and major
- * Minor-to-major post-graduation
- * Manual language vs. intentional restrictive policy
- * Referral to CUBM, FSEC
- * Creation of Special Committee

Charge

- examine current policy and manual language relating to minors, especially:
- continuing study in minor field after graduation in order to turn minor into an additional full major, and
- completing an unfinished minor post-graduation.

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Research, analysis of manual language and discussion

- Minors vs. certificates
- URI policy vs. peer institutions
- Barriers to continuation of coursework beyond graduation
- Barriers to timely completion of minors
- Barriers to completion of minor program post-graduation

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Recommendations

- Clarity in manual language for consistent application of policies across colleges
- Eliminate current unintended prohibition of continuing work in minor field of study post-graduation
- Alleviate difficulties completing minors on time by loosening restrictions on double-counting credits between major field of study and minor

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Proposal 1

- Clear definition of a minor
 - Secondary concentration of courses
 - Interdepartmental minor program
 - 18 credits offered by one or more departments or programs and sponsored by faculty competent in that area

Rationale

- * Clarity
- * Consistent application of policies across colleges

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Proposal 2

- Current: at least 50% of the credits for the minor must be earned at URI
- Proposal: at least eight of the credits for the minor must be earned at URI

Rationale

- * Smooth transfer pathways
- * Encourage and facilitate completion of minors by transfer students

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Proposal 3a

- Permit application of all credits from a minor field of study to a major in the case of post-graduation re-enrollment for the purpose of completing a full major in what was previously a minor field of study

Rationale

- * Encourage lifelong learning
- * Timely degree completion
- * Promote continued relationship with URI post-graduation

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Proposal 3b

- Permit application of up to two courses from major program to minor field of study

Rationale

- * Encourage minors among students in programs with rigid curricula and/or non-traditional scheduling practices

Changes to the University Manual: Proposal 1

Current Language

8.20.50 Minor Fields of Study. Undergraduate students may declare a "minor" field of study. Requirements may be satisfied by: 1) completion of 18 or more credits of any of the interdepartmental minors that have been proposed by one or more departments and approved by the Curriculum and Standards Committee, Faculty Senate, and the President; or 2) completion of 18 or more credits within a curriculum other than the student's major; or 3) completion of 18 or more credits of related studies offered by more than one department and sponsored by a faculty member competent in the minor field of study. To declare a minor, a student must have approval of the department chairperson of the minor field of study (or faculty sponsor in option 3 of this paragraph), and the student's academic dean. A student's approved minor(s) will be listed on the student's permanent academic record after graduation.

[#16-17-22](#), [#17-18-23](#)

Proposed Language

8.20.50 Minor Fields of Study. Undergraduate students may declare a "minor" field of study. **A minor is a secondary concentration of courses.** Requirements may be satisfied by: 1) completion of 18 or more credits of any of the interdepartmental minors that have been proposed by one or more departments and approved by the Curriculum and Standards Committee, Faculty Senate, and the President; or 2) ~~completion of 18 or more credits within a curriculum other than the student's major; or 3)~~ completion of 18 or more credits of related studies offered by ~~more than one~~ **or more** departments **or programs** and sponsored by a faculty member competent in the minor field of study. To declare a minor, a student must have approval of the department chairperson of the minor field of study (or faculty sponsor in option ~~3~~ **2** of this paragraph), and the student's academic dean. A student's approved minor(s) will be listed on the student's permanent academic record after graduation. [#16-17-22](#), [#17-18-23](#)

Changes to the University Manual: Proposal 2

Current Language

8.20.51 At least twelve of the eighteen credits required for a minor shall be at the 200-level or above. At least half of the credits required for a minor must be earned at The University of Rhode Island. A minimum average of 2.00 must be earned in the eighteen or more credits required for the minor. [#16-17-22](#)

Proposed Language

8.20.51 At least twelve of the eighteen credits required for a minor shall be at the 200- level or above. At least ~~half~~ **eight** of the credits required for a minor must be earned at The University of Rhode Island. A minimum average of 2.00 must be earned in the eighteen or more credits required for the minor. [#16-17-22](#)

Changes to the University Manual: Proposal 3

Current Language

8.20.52 No course required in a major program (30-36 credits) may be used to apply to both the major and minor fields of study. Courses from other curricula that are recommended or required for the major may apply to the minor. Courses in General Education may be used for the minor. Courses in the minor may not be taken under the pass-fail grading option.

[#05-06-35](#), [#16-17-22](#)

Proposed Language

8.20.52 ~~No course~~ A maximum of two courses required in a major program (~~30-36 credits~~) may be used to apply to both the major and minor fields of study. **Additionally, graduates who have earned an undergraduate degree with a minor from the University of Rhode Island and who are then readmitted to the University to pursue an alternate major or degree, may apply for that purpose all credits earned in pursuit of the previous minor field of study.** Courses from other curricula that are recommended or required for the major may apply to the minor. Courses in General Education may be used for the minor. Courses in the minor may not be taken under the pass-fail grading option. [#05-06-35](#), [#16-17-22](#)