

September 28, 2015

**FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE “SECONDARY MAJORS” FOR
UNDERGRADUATES WHO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR
THAT IS NOT PART OF THEIR DEGREE PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, Article V, Section A, Par. 2. of the Constitution of the University Faculty states in relevant part that the Faculty Senate shall make recommendations to the president for consideration and transmittal to the Board of Trustees where
to pursue multiple, disparate interests; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2015, the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education, in consultation with the constituent faculties of the Undergraduate Program Faculty, voted to support the proposal attached here as Exhibit A, to recognize a student’s completion of a major that is not part of his or her degree program; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2015, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee voted that the proposal, attached here as Exhibit A, be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Faculty

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Faculty Senate of Case Western Reserve University approves recognizing an undergraduate as having completed a “secondary major” when he or she has met all of the requirements for a major that is not part of the student’s degree program.

EXHIBIT A

PROPOSAL TO RECOGNIZE SECONDARY MAJORS

Case Western Reserve University presents itself to prospective undergraduates as a university where it is easy to pursue multiple, disparate interests. However, given the structure of our degree programs, students often find it difficult to earn recognition for completing a second (or subsequent) major not affiliated with their primary degree programs, as this would require that they become “dual degree” students. Some of the difficulties they encounter are differences in general education and other school-wide requirements¹ and the requirement of 30 additional credit-hours of coursework beyond those required for the first degree in order to earn a second degree.² Some students are dissuaded from completing substantial coursework in a second area of interest when it comes from a different degree program, while others, eager to earn credentials in the two fields while still graduating in eight semesters, are motivated to carry heavier semester course loads than would be wise. [A description of the structure of undergraduate degrees and majors at CWRU is included as an appendix.]

PROPOSAL: That the University recognize an undergraduate as having completed a “secondary major” when he or she has completed all of the requirements for a major that is not part of the student’s degree program, as described in the questions and answers below.

What requirements will a student have to meet to complete a secondary major?

A student will

Will

Like primary majors, secondary majors will be recorded on a student's diploma, but separate from the major field(s) associated with the degree program. A separate line with the designation "Secondary Major: _____" will list the secondary major(s) that a student completed. See the attached mock-up as an example.

Will students be assigned advisors in their secondary majors?

Yes. Advisors for secondary majors will have access to the same information in SIS as is currently available to major and minor advisors. However, as is currently the case for minors, advisors for secondary majors will not be able to lift advising holds for registration. Only advisors for majors affiliated with a student's degree program(s) will be able to lift advising holds.

What is the anticipated timeline for introducing secondary majors?

Candidates for undergraduate degrees awarded in May 2017 or later may begin declaring secondary majors during the Fall Term 2016.

Why not simply eliminate the 30 credit-hour requirement for dual degrees?

There are three reasons for not eliminating the requirement of 30 additional credit-hours for dual degrees.

This appears to be the industry norm. It is common for colleges and universities to require the equivalent of an additional year of work for students who wish to receive two undergraduate degrees.

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degree program, students may pursue multiple majors across traditional degree programs within the standard number of credit-hours required for a single degree. Students may also choose to pursue two degrees, the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science, but are required to complete an extra year of credit-hours to do so.

