

TO: Larry Baum, Chair, Subcommittee A of the Council of Academic Affairs  
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FROM: Dan Mendelsohn, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs

RE: Charge to Study University Wide Minors Policies

DATE: February 11, 2009

Issues have been coming up for a few years about problems associated with the variety of rules and guidelines established for minors (both undergraduate and graduate) offered by different academic units. There are also questions arising as to the structure for approval of the minors and the approval of certain students being able to enroll in the Minor, once it has been approved. In particular, the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences now decides, through their CCI (Committee on Curriculum and Instruction), each minor being offered by a unit outside the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences is acceptable or not for an Arts and Sciences student to take. There have also been problems with the policies about Honors students and Honors minors vs. non-Honors minors. All of these issues have been discussed in recent CAA meetings for which the minutes may be consulted (08/18/08, 09/15/08, 02/04/09). At the February 4th and preceding CAA meeting all of the data recently collected by OAA on Minors was reviewed. That information is posted on the CAA website.

Subcommittee A is hereby charged with investigating the entire issue of minors at the undergraduate and graduate level, with particular focus on evaluating:

- Whether or not there should be more uniformity in minors guidelines across academic units.
- Whether or not the current structure for approval of minors (including the Arts and Sciences separate approval process which decides if Arts and Sciences students can take the minor) should be changed, and if so to what.
- Whether or not current policies involving Honors minors vs. non-Honors minors and Honors students should be changed, and if so to what.

Note that these are focus issues, and the subcommittee is free to and encouraged to discuss and evaluate any issues which may come up in their deliberations.