March 29, 2011

To: Larry Krissek

Chair, Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction

From: Bebe Miller

 Chair, Arts and Humanities 1 (Arts Intensive) Subcommittee

Re: Semester Conversion Proposal for Bachelor of Science in Design Program

On March 3 the Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee reviewed the semester conversion proposals for the Department of Design’s undergraduate programs: Bachelor of Science of Design in Visual Communication Design, Bachelor of Science of Design in Industrial Design, Bachelor of Science of Design in Interior Design. We looked at the three programs as a group since the differences between them are minor. The conversion proposals were first approved by the department, and then reviewed and approved by the arts programs chairs and directors last November to make sure that curricular changes were in line with NASAD accrediting standards.

Overall the program has been converted with minimal changes. Most significant is the reconfiguration of the credit hours from three areas of major course work—design courses, elective design courses, and free elective courses—to two areas—design courses and free elective courses. [This applies to the Industrial Design and Visual Communication Design programs. For the BSD in Interior Design the reconfiguration is as above plus the inclusion of any one Architecture course, a requirement carried over from the quarter system.] The subcommittee spent quite a bit of time in discussion about this and asked for more clarity in the chair’s rationale for this issue, which he provided. The faculty decided to shift some of the current Design elective courses to requirements of the major programs, which accounts for the increase of 10.7 credit hours offered by the unit, on the PACER form. The 22 elective credits from a select group of courses that were a part of the quarter-based program and 10 credit hours of free electives in all three undergraduate majors (total of 32) will now convert to the 10.7 unit credits plus 12 semester credit hours of electives that can be taken in any discipline across the university.

The Design major programs will continue to operate in a ‘lock-step fashion,’ in a specified semester-by-semester, year-to-year sequence. Their first-year courses will feature a series of seven-week, 1.5 credit courses that will expose students to a variety of principles and instructors’ viewpoints at the start of their studies. This also will allow for an alternate course sequence that will facilitate a Design Minor track for those students not accepted in to one of the major programs, during the last seven-week sequence of that first year.

Other than a few typos and formatting issues (easily solved) the proposals were well considered. The subcommittee voted unanimously to approve for consideration by the full CCI.