



23 January 2015

To: Council on Academic Affairs (CAA)

Re: Proposed revisions to "Design Minor (Design-MN) Track Two: for Pre-Design students not accepted to a Design major."

Rationale for the revisions:

This version of the Design Minor is directly linked to the Department of Design's Industrial Design; Interior Design; and Visual Communication Design Bachelor of Science in Design (BSD) major programs' shared, first-year, foundation course sequence. Annually, approximately 90 Pre-Design students go through this required, 18 credit course sequence. Approximately 54 students (18 for each major) are eventually accepted to one of the major programs, and continue to the second year of study. The 36 non-accepted students typically go on to other major programs in the university, and if they've completed the 18 credit course sequence, will have also completed this version of the Design Minor.

As the Department of Design has recently requested revisions to the above-mentioned first-year course sequence, those changes necessarily affect this version of the Design Minor. Specifically, Design 2110 (AU), 2310 (AU), 2130 (SP), 2330 (SP) (currently all half-semester, 1.5 credits) will each switch to full-semester and 3 credit courses. As well, Design 2120 (AU), 2320 (AU), Design 2140 (SP), 2340 (SP) (currently all half-semester, 1.5 credits) will each be removed from the first-year course sequence.

Design 3505 (half-semester, 3 credits, currently only for students not accepted to a Design major program) will be removed from the minor's requirements, and its contents will be brought in to the above, revised 14 week courses. Design 2700 (AU) and 2750 (SP) (each full-semester, 3 credits) remain in the course sequence, and when combined with the four revised 14 week courses make up the minor's required 18 credits.

Petition to CAA:

The Department of Design is aware of the University's requirement that minor programs include at least 6 credits of upper-level course work (3000-level or above, in this case). The current version of this minor does not meet that requirement, as it only includes one upper-level course, Design 3505. The revised version will remove Design 3505 from its requirements, leaving no upper-level courses in the minor program.

As the current minor was approved during semester conversion with an exception to the 6 credits requirement, we petition CAA to also extend that exception to the revised version of the minor program. Our rationale for this exception is the same as was offered during semester conversion. Specifically, the contents of the first-year courses required for this minor are at a more advanced level than what is typically found in freshman courses in many disciplines within the university. The Design 2000-level foundational courses provide a significant grounding in Design process, visualization, history and basic practices that should serve non-accepted students well as they move to other major programs in the university, and complement those various areas of study.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this petition, and please let me know if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul J. Nini, Professor and Undergraduate Studies Committee Chairperson