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December 5, 2007
From the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee

Summary: a proposal to cap the number of courses in the areas of the Core Complement.

MOTION [for the February Assembly meeting]

That the Faculty Assembly endorse the following policy for offering courses in the Core Complement:

In each of the required areas of the Core Complement, the list of Core Complement courses will not exceed a maximum of 15 different courses per course option per area, i.e., if a Core Complement area has one course option, the maximum number of courses available will be 15; if a Core Complement area has two course options, the maximum number of courses available will be 30, etc. An exception will be made in the case of Religious Studies, which will maintain its current offering limit of 19 courses. When the maximum options per course requirement in any area is reached, existing options will have to be removed before new ones are added.

Rationale

- Salve Regina's Core Curriculum for undergraduates, like similar programs at other institutions, gives students knowledge that they can discuss with one another and can build on in other courses. Even in the large variety of Core Complement courses there is a unity of purpose that enhances the sense of a shared educational endeavor.

An essential feature of any core is a select curriculum with a distinct character. A catalog or course brochure with an ever-expanding list of courses would contradict the whole purpose of a core.

- An agreed-upon limit for the Core Complement courses is a useful place to begin work on needed revisions in this area (e.g., course approval process and revisions of current courses).
- In the four years the Core Curriculum has been offered, no area in the Complement has ever asked for more than 14 courses per course option, except Religious Studies. For this reason the cap of 15 courses for all of the areas, except Religious Studies, would appear to be a workable limit that is based on experience and would also allow for growth.

An exception for Religious Studies (currently with 19 courses in this area) is appropriate because of the University's historical commitment to this discipline and the reality that this number of courses is filling a need.

History

In 2003 the Faculty Assembly voted to approve a distinctive Core Curriculum in the liberal arts. It would have two parts: a (1) Common Core for undergraduates that would be enhanced by a (2) Core Complement: 108 courses that students could choose in seven areas. Today, the number of these Core Complement courses stands at 111.

The following is a list of the areas of the Core Complement and the number of the course offerings in each area:

Foreign Languages: 12.5/course option, 25 total

Literature: 8/course option

Religious Studies: 19/course option

Mathematics: 6/course option

Natural Sciences: 10/course option, 20 total

Social Sciences: 6/course option, 18 total

Visual and Performing Arts: 14/course option