

Faculty Senate Proposal

Proposition: 25-07/08 Amended (formerly Memorial 10-07/08)

Sponsor(s): Jeff Amato, Jon Holtzman, Marsha Weisiger, Anne Hubbell (A&S); Lynn Kelly (Engineering); Chris Erickson (Business); Tracy Sterling (CAHE); Mary Prentice (Education)

Proposed Committee Assignment: Scholastic Affairs

Actual Committee Assignment: Faculty Affairs 4/8/08

Title: A Proposition to modify the Viewing a Wider World program to allow greater flexibility in course selections within this program

Proposal:

We propose that the Policy Manual and Undergraduate Catalog be amended by replacing the current text with the proposed text that will allow undergraduate students to have the option of taking one of their Viewing a Wider World (VWW) courses within their home college but outside the department that hosts their major.

This course could not be counted as one of their major requirements. Courses that are cross-listed in the student's home department do not qualify. Their other VWW course must be from a different college outside of their home college as in the current policy.

SECTION 1: PROPOSED TEXT

1a) Proposed Text for NMSU Policy Manual:

6.65 General Education Courses

Viewing a Wider World Courses

Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take two courses from the Viewing a Wider World list in the Undergraduate Catalog. These courses are upper-division (300-400 level) General Education courses and should be taken in a student's junior and/or senior year. One of the two courses must be in a college other than their own. The other course **may** be taken within their home college, but this course (1) must be in a different department from their major department; (2) must not be cross-listed with a course in their home department; and (3) cannot be counted as one of the requirements for the student's major.

1b) Proposed Text for Undergraduate Catalog:

REQUIRED COURSES

GENERAL EDUCATION

NMSU Viewing a Wider World Courses

Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take two courses from the Viewing a Wider World list in the Undergraduate Catalog. These courses are upper-division (300-400 level) General Education courses and should be taken in a student's junior and/or senior year. One of the two courses must be in a college other than their own. The other course **may** be taken within their home college, but this course (1) must be in a different department from their major department; (2) must not be cross-listed with a course in their home department; and (3) cannot be counted as one of the requirements for the student's major.

NOTE: This list is under continuous revision. Please check with the office of the college associate dean or with college advisors for additional eligible courses.

SECTION 2: ORIGINAL TEXT

2a) Original Text in NMSU Policy Manual:

n/a

2b) Original Text in Undergraduate Catalog:

NMSU Viewing a Wider World Courses

Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take, preferably during their junior or senior year, 6 credits of Viewing a Wider World from two colleges other than their own. These courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study and strengthen information retrieval skills by including an assignment which requires the students to do a detailed literature search involving the use of library facilities.

NOTE: This list is under continuous revision. Please check with the office of the college associate dean or with college advisors for additional eligible courses.

Rationale:

Viewing a Wider World courses have several broader goals over and above other 300+ level courses. These include a research and writing emphasis, and many courses involve a multicultural or international component. The program is designed to challenge the students while broadening their educational experience outside of their major field. Many of the courses offered within certain colleges could be taken by students in those same colleges and still fulfill the spirit of the program as the courses can be very different

from their major field. Students in all colleges will benefit from this change by providing greater flexibility in fulfilling this requirement.

The NMSU Policy Manual currently makes no mention of the Viewing a Wider World program. Current guidelines are noted only in a short paragraph on p. 15 of the 2007-2008 catalog. Therefore we propose that this new text be incorporated into both the Policy Manual (in Section 6.65, General Education Courses) and the Undergraduate Catalog.

Finally, this proposal has the support of many students, as determined through a poll of ASNMSU senators.

History:

The guidelines in this proposal were approved by both ADC (Academic Deans Council) and ADAC (Associate Deans Academic Council) in 2007. The Faculty Senate rejected a similar proposal (21-06/07 Amended) at the last Faculty Senate meeting in Spring 2007. The view was that the bill had not been sufficiently vetted through each of the Colleges. In response, an Ad Hoc Committee was convened in Fall 2007 with representatives from most of the Colleges. Four meetings were held and the current proposal, along with a companion proposal clarifying the criteria for approval of new VWW courses, are the result of these meetings. The current proposal has been approved by both ADC and ADAC in Spring 2008.