SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

concerning

REVISION TO THE MINOR IN
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
(#4932)

Presented at the
778th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 26, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

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ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal.

*Please describe your proposal*

We propose to change the minor in three ways:

1) Counting number of courses (5) instead of credit hours (15, which originally meant 5 classes but could now be only 4);
2) Allowing a 100-level course to count towards the minor, since a 100-level course can be counted towards the major;
3) Clarifying and standardizing the expectations for foreign language proficiency.

The proposed minor (also under "Curriculum," below) would read as follows:

* 5 courses in Comparative Literature. One course may be at the 100 level and one at the 200 level, or two courses may be at the 200 level. At least three must be at or above the 300 level.
* One year (6 credits) of university-level study of a language other than English, or the equivalent.

**Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this proposal.**

Following a few conversations with the Program Chair (Moira Inghilleri) about the minor, the Undergraduate Program Director (Jessica Barr) put together a document showing the discrepancies between the minor and the major and raising the problem of the lack of clarity surrounding the language requirement. This was presented to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in January 2018. The Committee then drafted a proposed revision to the minor, which was presented to the full faculty of the Comp Lit program. After discussion and a few phrasing revisions, the faculty unanimously voted (on Feb. 5, 2018) to accept the committee's proposal.

**Describe the purpose and particular goals for this proposal.**

This revision remains true to the intent of the original minor (15 credits as 5 courses), while acknowledging the growing prevalence of 4-credit courses. Our current major counts courses instead of credit hours for this reason; changing the minor would make the minor and major consistent in this respect.

The proposal also harmonizes the major and the minor by allowing a 100-level course to count towards the minor (it makes little sense to count courses towards the major that don't count towards the minor).

Finally, it clarifies the language requirement, which has been vaguely defined (as "proficiency") and therefore inconsistently enforced. By requiring one year of university-level language study or the equivalent, we retain our focus on multiple languages without making the minor prohibitive for students in Colleges other than HFA.

**Resources**

*If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. Indicate how many new enrollments are expected as a result of these revisions and how the courses will accommodate them.*

No additional resources required. Students will largely continue to complete the minor as they always have; a few will need to take a fifth course (rather than four four-credit courses), but such courses are abundant. We do not expect that enrollments will change substantially as the result of this revision.

**Curriculum**

*Describe both the current and proposed curricula for this minor, indicating any changes. If the revisions include courses that have not yet received permanent status, please note their status as experimentals or in the Faculty Senate workflow. If the proposed revision does not affect the curriculum, please note so here. If you would like to attach any curricular worksheets or other materials describing the current or proposed curriculum, you may attach them below.*
Current minor:
* 15 hours of Comparative Literature courses. Three 300-level courses are required; no more than two 200-level courses can count towards the minor.
* Proficiency in a foreign language.

Proposed minor:
* 5 courses in Comparative Literature. One course may be at the 100 level and one at the 200 level, or two courses may be at the 200 level. At least three must be at or above the 300 level.
* One year (6 credits) of university-level study of a language other than English, or the equivalent.

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve a Revision to the Minor in Comparative Literature, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-072.