

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 20-10 (Voting Units: Academic)

Change of Name of an Academic Program from “Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in English” to “Bachelor of Arts in English”

Introduction

This is a proposal to change the name of the current degree program, "Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in English", to "Bachelor of Arts in English". This degree program, the B. A. in English, will include an optional Concentration in English Education for students who seek to become certified as high school teachers.

Description

There is no intention to change the curriculum with the adoption of the new name. The curriculum of the current degree, "Liberal Arts with a Concentration in English", cultivates reading, writing, and speaking skills. The curriculum develops insight into human nature through study of established literary traditions and allows students to explore the history of thought and ideas. This B. A. degree has proven beneficial in advanced studies and career pursuits. Students who are better able to think critically, write well and creatively, read fluently, and communicate effectively are in increasing demand in every field. Some of our graduates have become secondary school teachers; some have continued to law school or graduate school in areas such as creative writing, environmental journalism, library science, and rhetoric and technical communication.

The current degree program "Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Secondary Education" will be retained, but will be named "Bachelor of Arts in English with a Concentration in English Education".

Rationale

The change in the name of the degree from "Liberal Arts with a Concentration in English" to "English" will reflect more accurately the curriculum and education offered to undergraduates.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts was originally approved to accommodate the University's need for major programs in the Humanities. The Concentration in English was modeled after comparable English programs in research universities throughout the US. However, the current name implies a variety of non-English courses and only a slight emphasis on English. This is an inaccurate portrayal of the nature and the rigor of the curriculum; the new name will correct this misrepresentation.

After students majoring in English graduate from the degree program, they pursue careers and graduate programs that require formal training in the discipline. Although the program fulfills the requirements sought by employers and university administrators, the current name weakens our competitive position and can be a critical liability for our graduating seniors. With the name change, our English students will be better prepared when competing for jobs, graduate school entrance, and scholarships. Within the field of literature, especially, a Bachelor's degree in English will lend more credibility to our curriculum and better serve the interests of our students.

Timeline

If this proposal is approved in Spring 2010, this name change will be implemented in fall 2010. Students currently in the program will be given the option to finish their current degree/concentration, or to change to the new degree.

Introduced to Senate: 31 March 2010

Adopted by Senate: 14 April 2010

Approved by administration: 21 April 2010