

24 November 1999

TO: Members, University Senate

FROM: University Senate Council

RE: **AGENDA ITEM:** University Senate Meeting, Monday, December 13, 1999, 3:00 p.m. in the W.T. Young Library Auditorium. Proposed Changes in University Senate Rules, Entrance and Progression Requirements for Nutrition and Food Science –Dietetics Undergraduate Program

Proposed: Request to establish entrance and progression requirements for Nutrition and Food Science – Dietetics Undergraduate program

University Senate Rules Section IV

4.2.2.4 College of Human Environmental Sciences

Add:

1. A GPA of 2.4 or above to progress into coursework designated as major requirements
2. A grade of “C” or better in all coursework designated as major requirements.

Background and Rationale:

The Department of Nutrition and Food Science has a major in Dietetics with about 140 students. This major has very exacting requirements, including American Dietetics Association approved coursework (a verification statement must be provided for each student), a supervised practice or internship and a licensure examination. The final result of a successful quest is the R.D. - registered dietitian.

Internships are very competitive on a national basis and those students with less than a 3.0 GPA are at risk of not receiving one. This means no R.D. and exclusion from jobs requiring the R.D. certification.

Dietetics is a biomedical type program. All such programs on campus have strict entrance requirements in terms of GPA's, thereby screening candidates. Dietetics has

"open admission", but the GPA becomes critical at the end of the training when it is time to apply to internships. Therefore, we propose to attach a very modest "progression requirement" to the dietetics program. This will give the students a more realistic sense of the level of accomplishment needed to be successful in dietetics.

To reiterate, the proposal is to require a GPA of 2.4 or above to progress into coursework designated as major requirements, and a grade of "C" or better in all coursework designated as major requirements

The Department believes that this will aid students in being successful in their chosen profession while preventing unrealistic attempts by those who should choose other fields.

The proposal has been reviewed favorably by the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee and the University Senate Council and is recommended for approval.

Implementation: Fall Semester, 2000