

University Senate
December 10, 2007

Third Bachelor's Degree

During the spring 2007 semester, the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) was asked to offer an interpretation regarding whether or not a student could earn an additional bachelor's degree beyond a second bachelor's degree – there were a handful of students who were working towards a third degree.

Due to timing and other reasons, the students were allowed to earn third bachelor's degrees. In addition, the SREC stated that it could not render an interpretation, since there was no language about a third bachelor's degree to interpret. The SREC reported this to the Senate Council at the SC meeting on September 17, 2007.

During that meeting, the SC voted to send the issue to the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SA&ASC), with three specific charges:

1. The SC asked that the SA&ASC first determine if a third bachelor's degree (or fourth, or fifth, etc.) was allowable;
2. If the SA&ASC determined additional bachelor's degrees beyond the second bachelor's degree should be allowed, the SA&ASC was also asked to consider the language outlined in *Senate Rules 5.4.1.3*¹ ("Second Bachelor's Degrees") and determine how it would apply to a third bachelor's degree; and
3. Finally, the SC asked that the SA&ASC consider the appropriate uses of resources (course size, teaching load, etc.) involved with a student pursuing multiple degrees, versus the uses of resources utilized by a student pursuing a first bachelor's degree.

The chair of the SA&ASC has asked that the Senate conduct an open, time delimited discussion on the matter so that the SA&ASC has an idea of the direction in which to proceed.

¹ **5.4.1.3 Second Bachelor's Degrees**

A student is eligible to qualify for a second bachelor's degree in a different major. The student must complete all university, college, and departmental requirements for both degrees. Courses taken towards fulfilling one degree may also count towards fulfilling parallel requirements in the other, but the student must complete a minimum of at least 144 hours for both degrees. The student may elect to receive the degrees simultaneously if college and departmental degree requirements can be met simultaneously. [US: 3/8/82; 4/10/89]