



University of Connecticut
Teachers for a New Era Project

December 3, 2007

Dear Deans, Associate Deans, and Directors,

The attached proposal, *Dual Degree from the Teachers for a New Era Project*, was passed unanimously by the Scholastic Standards Committee on November 28, 2007. This proposal will be presented to the Senate for action at its 12/10/07 meeting.

An earlier version of this proposal was presented to the Senate last spring, but was tabled pending further consideration by the CLAS C&C committee. Please see the attached materials for the exact wording of the current proposal and more information about the programmatic logic behind it.

If you have any questions or concerns in regards to this proposal please feel free to contact Dr. Boyer or Dr. Brown.

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We look forward to your support on this proposal put forth by the Teachers for a New Era Project (<http://www.tne.uconn.edu/>).

An Equal Opportunity Employer

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***Proposal for Dual Degree from
The Teachers for a New Era Project
to the University Senate
Fall 2007***

Current Education Degrees

- Students earn a B.S. in Education and an M.A. in Education as part of the nationally-ranked, integrated Bachelors/Masters program in the Neag School of Education. This is a **five-year** program. Students complete their first two years of study within CLAS, CANR, Fine Arts and/or ACES (except for a small number of transfer students).
- Students must fulfill an array of “content” courses depending on their area of specialization (e.g., elementary education, science education, math education, etc.). These along with other education coursework constitute their major within Neag.
- Students do **not** earn a disciplinary major as generally conceived in other Schools and Colleges of the University. They take a series of courses outlined by Neag to fulfill current certification requirements in a specific topical teaching area, although the students are most often within 2-3 courses of the requirements in the content-area department

Why a Change is Needed

- The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program mandates a “qualified teacher in every classroom.” One measure of these qualifications is the holding of a disciplinary major in the content area in which an individual teaches. See <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/methods/teachers/hqtflexibility.html> for more information on the federal regulations.
- Following NCLB mandates, each state develops their own certification requirements. Currently, a disciplinary major is not required for certification in Connecticut, but that will likely change in the near future. See for http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/nclb/teacher_paraprof_reqs/index.htm for more information from the Connecticut Department of Education.

Challenges to Change at UConn

- Currently, a student wishing to earn degrees in two schools of colleges must earn an extra 30 credits. The exact language is as follows:

Article II, Section C.1.g. of the BY-LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

Existing Language: Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees: A student may pursue an additional baccalaureate degree either wholly or partly concurrently or after receiving another degree. Permission must be given by the dean of each school or college in which the student will be enrolled. All requirements for each degree must be met and at least 30 credits more than the highest minimum requirement of any of the degrees must be presented for each additional degree. One degree must be designated as the primary degree if the degrees are being pursued concurrently. At least 30 of the additional credits

must be 2000-level, or above, courses in the additional degree major or closely related fields and must be completed with at least a 2.0 grade point average.

- For pre-service teachers to earn a dual degree (i.e., an additional Bachelors degree in a content area) each student would then need to add a sixth year to the existing 5-year program. This would make a disciplinary major an unattractive, if not, prohibitive option for most all education students (due to costs and time). It would likely also make UConn's education program a less attractive program relative to other options around the state offering teacher education.

Proposed Amendment to Article II, Section C.1.g. of the BY-LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

Proposed addition to section displayed above: *“The requirement of 30 additional credits is waived for a student who completes the requirements of both a teacher preparation degree in the Neag School of Education and a bachelor's degree in another school or college.”*

NOTE: The following resolution was passed unanimously by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences *Committee on Curricula & Courses* at its October 16, 2007 meeting: “Further to earlier discussion, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences supports the aim of expediting pursuit of a second baccalaureate degree by Neag School students. In furtherance thereof, CLAS urges that any amendment to the existing requirements for an additional baccalaureate degree should take the form of an added provision setting forth the following [see above proposed addition].”

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Answers to Some Specific Questions regarding the Proposal

1. **When this is eventually passed when would the policy go into effect? That is, would the new rule apply to currently enrolled students?** When this policy is passed and if the Senate made the ruling effective spring 08, then students graduating May 08 could take advantage of it. Of course, this depends on whether these students have already met all requirements in the two schools. If not, then they may have to delay their graduation until a later conferral date to take advantage of the new policy. If the ruling is passed with no effective date, then it would hold for education students who are here when the policy appears in print.
2. **Would the same exemption of the requirement for the 30 extra credits apply to past graduates of the Neag program that return to earn another non-Neag degree?** No.
3. **Is it still true that courses could be counted towards requirements of both degrees? (Unlike the dual major which does not allow double-use for major requirements.)** The answer to this question is “yes.” It was only the additional 30 credits that had to be unique in the additional degree policy. If those credits are not required then there is no prohibition on overlapping courses.