TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council
FROM: Richard Engquist
Academic Policies and Procedures Committee
SUBJECT: Changes in Residency Requirements in the Major (BCOL 0067)
DATE: November 9, 2009

This report considers a request from the Bauer College of Business to change the residency requirements in the major. Participating in the discussion of this request held on Wednesday, October 28 were committee members: Judy Bloom, William Chernish, Wade Munson, Charles Parks, Richard Iannotti, Steve Sello, and Rebecca Asha Tadmor. Frank Kelley attended the meeting as a guest.

Background:
Candidates for a bachelor's degree at the University of Houston must satisfy two residency requirements: The first defines the type of courses that must be taken in residence and the second requires that the last 30 semester hours to be applied toward a bachelor's degree be taken in residence at the University of Houston. These requirements appear on page 73 of the 2009-07 Undergraduate Studies Catalog.

University Residency Requirements (See Page 73 in the 2009-07 Undergraduate Studies Catalog):
10. Students must complete at least 30 semester hours in residence:
   a. Those residence hours are not to include credit by examination, special problems, or individual research courses taken at the University of Houston.
   b. A minimum of nine semester hours of advanced work in the major field must be completed in residence.

In addition to those minimum university requirements, additional requirements may be imposed by an individual department or college. In June 2009, the Bauer College of Business submitted a request to the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee to reduce the minimum number of semester hours of advanced work in the major field that must be completed in residence by students in various areas of concentration. The proposed current and proposed Bauer College of Business residency requirements appear below. The proposed changes appear in bold text.

Current Bauer College of Business Residency Requirement (See Page 124 in the 2009-07 Undergraduate Studies Catalog):
The last 30 semester hours of a bachelor's degree must be completed in residence. A residency requirement of 12 semester hours of advanced accounting course work is required for the accounting area of concentration. Twelve semester hours of advanced MBA course work in residence are required for the MIS area of concentration. In the remaining areas of concentration, nine semester hours of advanced course work in residence are required.

Proposed Bauer College of Business Residency Requirement:
The last 30 semester hours of a bachelor's degree must be completed in residence. A residency requirement of 42 semester hours of advanced course work is required for the major area of concentration. Twelve semester hours of advanced MBA course work in residence are required for the MIS area of concentration, and 12 semester hours of advanced accounting course work is required for the accounting area of concentration. In the remaining areas of concentration, nine semester hours of advanced course work in residence are required.

Recommendation:
The Committee unanimously endorses the proposed increase in the number of hours in the major field that must be taken in residence as a way to improve the integrity and depth of the degree. In addition, the Committee also recommends that the boasts of the University of Houston residency requirement be added to the index of future Undergraduate Studies catalogs.

Note: Line with the double strikethrough in Proposed Bauer College of Business Residency Requirement is the only change to UC 8794 05F.