DATE: November 21, 2006
TO: Terryl W. Hallquist, Chair, Committee on Educational Programs (CEP)
FROM: David A. Weintraub, Director, Interdisciplinary Program in the Communication of Science and Technology (CST)
CC: Kate Daniels, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Science
SUBJECT: revision of rules for the interdisciplinary CST major

In response to your request of November 18, I have made some minor modifications in the language of the proposed changes previously reviewed by the CEP and embedded those changes in the full catalog text for the Communication of Science and Technology major for the affected portion of the UG catalog.

On the following pages is the proposed, new catalog text for the affected portions of the Communication of Science and Technology major. These sections of text would replace the current sections of the catalog beginning with the ‘Required Courses (15 hours)’ paragraph and continuing through the ‘Natural Science (9 hours),’ ‘Engineering (9 hours)’ and ‘Selected Courses (15 hours)’ paragraphs.

There are two issues that have come up since the CST proposal was submitted to the CEP that I’d like to submit at this time for review. These are:

1. Several students, during registration this month, asked why Philosophy 244 (Philosophy and the Natural Sciences) was not included in the approved list of courses for 'Area III'. I was surprised, to be honest, to find that this course was not on the list and I suspect its absence is because the course had been dormant for a few years after John Compton retired, but it was taught in 2005-06 (though is not on the schedule for this year). I can approve this course, as a special case, for a student or two, but it would make more sense to add the course to the approved list. I have added it to the proposed catalog text below, but note that this is a proposed change that has not been reviewed yet by the CEP.

2. Again during advising, the question arose as to whether a student could count a 'W' course in ENG or the sciences -- the only one I know of at this time is ES 210W -- as both a 'W' course for Area II and for the Engineering requirement. My answer was 'no, it can't double count, and if it is a 'W' course then it would count only toward the Area II requirement and would not count toward the Engineering requirement.' I have obtained very strong, though not unanimous agreement, from the CST Steering Committee on this point. It probably is necessary, for clarity and precision, to spell this out explicitly in the catalog text. I proposed placing this text in the Area II requirement, with the parenthetical phrase that appears at the end of the first sentence of this requirement. Again, please note that this parenthetical statement is a proposed change that has not been reviewed yet by the CEP.

The pieces of text that are revised or are replacements for current text are in bold, for easy identification.
Required Courses (15 hours)

Communication Studies 237 (Communication of Science, Engineering, and Technology)
English 118W (Introduction to Literary and Cultural Analysis) or 120W (Intermediate Composition) or 200 (Intermediate Nonfiction Writing) or 201 (Advanced Nonfiction Writing)
Communication Studies 201 (Persuasion) or 204 (Organizational and Managerial Communication)
Engineering Science 120 (Introduction to Engineering Problem Solving) or 140 (Introduction to Engineering)
Mathematics 180 (Fundamentals of Probability and Statistics) or 218 (Introduction to Mathematical Statistics) or Economics 150 (Economic Statistics)

Natural Science (9 hours)

Any three 200-level courses (minimum three credit hours per course) from at least two disciplines in the natural sciences from those listed for credit as MNS courses within AXLE. (Note that MATH courses cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.) Students would only count nine hours of Natural Science courses toward this part of 48 hour requirement, even if they choose to take three four-hour courses.

Engineering (9 hours)

Any three courses (minimum three credit hours per course) from at least two disciplines in the College of Engineering (excluding BME 201, 240a-b, 241a-b, 272, 273; ChE 233W, 246, 247, 249; CE 200a-b-c, 248a-b, 252a-b; CS 101, 103, 240a-b; EECE 203, 204, 296, 297; ES 101, 103, 248a-b; MSE 209b-c; ME 209a-b-c, 243, 297). Students would only count nine hours of Engineering courses toward this part of 48 hour requirement, even if they choose to take three four-hour courses.

Selected Courses (15 hours)

Five courses from those listed below or additional courses taken from the above Science and Engineering lists with a minimum of one from Area I, a minimum of two from Area II, and a minimum of one from Area III.

Area I: Communication Studies 210 (Rhetoric and Civic Life), 220 (Rhetoric of the American Experience, 1640-1865), 221 (Rhetoric of the American Experience, 1865 to the present), 222 (Rhetorical Criticism), 241 (Rhetoric of Mass Media), 294 (Special Topics: Communication of Science through the Media).

Area II: ENGL 200, 201, or any 200-level W course taught in English, Engineering, or any of the Natural Science departments (note that 'W' courses taught in Engineering or the Natural Science departments do not count toward the 'Engineering' or 'Natural Science' requirements of this major). English 243 (Literature, Science, and Technology) may be repeated once (for a total of up to 6 credits) as long as the specific topics for the course are different each time it is taken. The topic for each offering of the course will be indicated in the official course schedule. Note that a course counted toward Required Courses cannot also be used in satisfaction of the Area II requirement.

Area III: Astronomy 203 (Theories of the Universe); Communication Studies 223 (Values in Modern Communication), 241 (Rhetoric of Mass Media); History 204 (History of Medicine); Economics 226 (Economic History of the U.S.); Earth and Environmental Sciences 205 (Science, Risk, and Government Policy); Philosophy 244 (Philosophy and the Natural Sciences); Political Science 242 (Political Communication), 253 (Ethics and Public Policy), 255 (Public Policy Problems); Psychology 250 (Control of Human Behavior).