

Report on the Summer 2006 Meetings of the Subcommittee on the B.S. degree

The subcommittee has reached consensus on the following:

The description of the people who practice “science” has changed so much over the last 30-40 years that we need a new approach to the B.S. degree. The following proposals constitute such a new approach:

1. The number of departments that offer B.S. degrees should be broadened.
2. The main mechanism of broadening should be to encourage the submission of proposals for new B.S. degrees to the C&CC. A subcommittee would vet such proposals, and would confer closely with a working group from the proposing department.
3. The catalog will be affected in the following way: The heading and list of requirements on page 52 of the Undergraduate catalog, “Bachelor of Science Only” should be deleted, and the same requirements should be incorporated individually into the requirements of those departments who presently offer a B.S. degree. Otherwise, the catalog language of page 51/52 would remain the same.
4. Those departments that presently offer a B.S. degree are “grandfathered” and would continue to offer the degree with the same requirements. They would be able to petition the C&CC for appropriate changes.
5. The present requirements for the B.S. degree would act in the spirit of a template for future B.S. degrees, with the following statement of purpose:
A bachelor of science degree provides students with comprehensive training for professional advancement in their chosen discipline. A B.S. directed curriculum provides instruction in quantitative skills; deductive and inductive reasoning; experimental methods; statistical analyses; and advanced topics appropriate to the field of study.
For the C&CC web site, the template and italicized statement would be incorporated into a new B.S. degree application form, together with accompanying guideline text.
6. Departments would look for “equivalency” with the template in formulating their proposed requirements.
7. The approved requirements would be made part of the appropriate department’s individual requirements.

Some issues that are under discussion include:

- The sub-committee is studying approaches to the Individualized Major.
- The sub-committee is studying approaches that might allow students to petition for substitutions for specific courses.

Robert G. Michel, *chair of the subcommittee:*

Richard Langlois, Gerald Leibowitz, John Manning, Kenneth Noll, George Rawitscher, Margaret Rubega (and Douglas Hamilton from the Dean’s office)