BACKGROUND PAPER

CASS UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS PROPOSALS

Professor Joan Beaumont, Dean of Education, CASS
Vanessa Gotting, Executive Officer Education Policy & Projects, CASS

1. BACKGROUND

The 2010 University Working Party on Undergraduate Education recommended (for all awards other than those externally accredited) the simplifying of program rules, the standardising across the Colleges of rules for majors and minors and the creation of minimum scope for elective courses within all award programs.

2. RATIONALE FOR CASS PROGRAM CHANGES

The College has seen these recommendations as an exciting opportunity for substantive undergraduate curriculum renewal. The university is at an important juncture and these curriculum innovations will contribute to the ANU’s capacity to develop a clear and confident message about what is distinctive about an undergraduate education at Australia’s National University.

This program renewal has included greater collaboration with the College of Asia and the Pacific, notably through the creation of one more flexible Bachelor of Languages which incorporates all languages offered at the ANU.

A new suite of programs in European Studies, Latin American Studies and Middle Eastern & Central Asian Studies will enable CASS to give greater visibility to its expertise in these regional/area studies and complement the Asia-Pacific Studies programs offered by CAP.

Through this renewal of program offerings the College aims to redress the softening of demand in recent years for its undergraduate programs including our flagship Bachelor of Arts. By redesigning our offerings in a way that highlights our research strengths and the commitment of the University to international engagement, the College aims to strengthen demand from high quality students within Canberra and nationally.

The program changes recommended to the UEC fall into three categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing programs which have required program rules to accord with the University recommendations and resulting principles of the College Education Committee detailed in Section 5 below.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Classical Studies</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Design Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Development Studies</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Digital Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Languages (now consolidated program with CAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Professional Music Practice</td>
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Existing programs which require changes to program rules to accord with the University recommendations and which are adopting new titles.

Bachelor of International Relations (formerly Bachelor of Arts (International Relations)).

Programs which were formerly academic plans within the BA and which will in future be discrete awards

Bachelor of Archaeological Practice
Bachelor of Art History & Curatorship
Bachelor of European Studies

New programs formed by a repacking of existing course offerings in an effort to give greater visibility to teaching and research strengths of the College

Bachelor of Latin American Studies
Bachelor of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies

The summary program templates as they appear on the UEC agenda have been developed using the DR & SS ANU Program Orders and Proposed Template (1711/2010) as approved by the University Education Committee at the 26 November 2010 meeting.

In order to meet the deadlines for 2012 publications – including the 2012 Undergraduate Guide and 2012 UAC Guide, new programs have been prioritised for consideration at the first (February) 2011 meeting of the UEC. New/revised College majors and minors will be on the April UEC agenda for consideration and approval.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR COMBINED AWARDS

Where any CASS award appears in combined programs the new program rules will prevail from 2012.

4. TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

All revised and new programs will be advertised in the 2011 UAC Guide. In March-April 2011 all currently enrolled CASS students will be advised of the changes to the programs and be offered the options of:

- continuing in their current award with the existing rules
- transferring to the new award and new rules.

5. CASS PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND PRINCIPLES

After consultation with students, Schools, Centres and two College forums in 2010 the CASS Education Committee at its meeting of 8 November 2010 approved the framework/principles for changes in CASS undergraduate programs as detailed below:

1. PROGRAM RULES

1.1 The Bachelor of Arts (3-year single award and in combined awards).

The generic Bachelor of Arts (as a stand-alone award and in combined degrees) will consist of 144 units of which 96 units must be Arts or Arts-listed courses.
A maximum of 60 units may be taken at 1000 level.

Students must complete, as a minimum requirement, a CASS major sequence of 48 units and a CASS minor sequence of 24 units.

The College is undertaking a review of the Honours year in 2011, consequently the inclusion of Honours ‘plans’ will be deferred until after the review.

The Bachelor of Arts

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<tr>
<th>Arts major (48 units)</th>
<th>Arts minor (24 units)</th>
<th>Arts electives (24 units)</th>
<th>Electives from CASS or other College (48 units)</th>
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</thead>
</table>

1.2 BA named degrees (3 years)

Three-year BA (named) degree programs (e.g. Bachelor of Development Studies) will consist of 144 units of which 96 units must be Arts or Arts-listed units. Of these:

- 48 units will be an Arts major sequence;
- 48 units will be either another prescribed Arts major, or two prescribed minors, or prescribed courses directly related to the program’s learning outcomes;

The remaining 48 units will be electives drawn either from CASS or another College.

Named Bachelor degrees (3 years)

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<tr>
<th>Arts major (48 units)</th>
<th>Second major or two minors or prescribed courses (48 units)</th>
<th>Electives (48 units)</th>
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1.3 Named Bachelor degrees (four years)

These will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All such programs will need to allow at least 48 units of free electives.

2. MAJOR SEQUENCES

All major sequences will consist of 48 units.

All majors will articulate key learning outcomes. These should list the core knowledge, skills and research methods acquired by studying each major.

Majors will be pedagogically focussed on disciplinary skills rather than listing a loose collection of offerings which may have only tenuous links to the learning outcomes of the discipline/major.
The building blocks of a major may include:

- Compulsory courses (that is, courses which must be taken to complete the major)
- Core courses (from which a certain number of courses should be selected)
- Other courses that count towards the major.
  This should include only courses which a discipline/area can be confident of offering in the following 2-3 years. It should not include courses on offer in past years which are no longer offered.

3. MINOR SEQUENCES

All minor sequences will consist of 24 units.

All minors will articulate key learning outcomes.

There will be two kinds of minors.

1. A minor that consists of 12 units at each of 1000 and 2000 levels drawn from the one discipline. This is in effect a truncated (or the first two levels) of a major. This will be called a “minor” on the student transcript.

2. A minor that consists of 24 units at 2000 and 3000 levels drawn from one or more disciplines. Such minors might be interdisciplinary and thematic. This minor will probably be called a “specialisation” on the student transcript (tbc by DR & SS).

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