

S.Res.2021.23

Senate Resolution: Support of Clarification Statement to the Double Counting of Courses Policy

SPONSOR: Zoe Pearson

CO-SPONSOR: Kyle Bennett, Academic Affairs Chair

DATE: April 14, 2021

Whereas: In 2012, the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of Rollins College chaired by Dr. Claire Strom instituted a double counting of courses policy to create a uniform college policy due to in the past different departments having different regulations creating inconsistency for students

Whereas: That adopted language read as follows: “If students are enrolled in more than one major or minor, they may double count no more than half the number of courses in the smaller program. If the smaller program requires an odd number of courses, the student may round up. Each program dyad will be treated separately. No course may be counted for more than two programs.”

Whereas: It was the intention and understanding by the AAC that the language as adopted would allow for students to count some courses in program A towards classes in program B (up to 50% of the smaller) and some classes in program A to also count towards program C (up to 50% of the smaller), assuming no singular course was being counted towards programs A, B, and C simultaneously.

Whereas: That interpretation as reported by Dr. Strom had been followed for many years allowing seniors to graduate with multiple programs on their diplomas.

Whereas: Over the last year a more strict interpretation had been applied that the language as written required that 50% of courses within a program must be unique to that program forcing many Spring 2021 and earlier graduates to not be receiving certain accreditations they thought they would be receiving from the college.

Whereas: The reinterpretation was endorsed by the Curriculum Committee (CC) of Rollins College, the successor to the AAC earlier this year

Whereas: This reinterpretation was challenged by several faculty members and departments, including Dr. Claire Strom, Dr. Rober Vander Poppen, and Dr. Joan Davison, with the support of over 17 departments on campus, stating that reinterpretation was incorrect and against the intentions of the AAC at the time of passage.

Whereas: Dr. Strom, Dr. Vander Proppen, and Dr. J Davison presented to the CC stating their belief and proposed the addition of the following clarifying clause: “If students are enrolled in

more than two programs, then they may double count half the number of courses in the smaller program toward more than one other program. Each program dyad will be treated separately”

Whereas: The Academic Affairs Chair made a motion to adopt the language clarification as a voting member of the CC. However, failing to receive a second from a faculty member the motion failed.

Whereas: The CC then made a motion to reaffirm their reinterpretation which subsequently passed with the only vote against coming from the Academic Affairs Chair.

Whereas: The Vice President and the Academic Affairs Chair were reached out to by Dr. Claire Strom asking for SGA endorsement of the language clarification with the intention by Dr. Strom and associates to take the floor at a full faculty meeting to challenge the decision by CC and call for a faculty vote

Whereas: Under the current policy students will be discouraged from having multiple majors/minors, which has been instrumental in positioning many of them for admission to graduate school and the award of competitive scholarships such as Borens, Fulbrights, etc.

Whereas: Under the current policy in order to obtain multiple majors/minors, students will have to take MORE classes than required by the actual program. This will stress faculty staffing—especially in small programs—at a time when Rollins is “right-sizing” its faculty.

Whereas: Under the current policy by having to take MORE classes than required by the specific programs, the move from the original intent of the policy will reduce the ability of the students to graduate in four years.

Whereas: Rollins has consistently stressed the importance of integrated learning. Students who are enrolled in more than two related programs are integrating their education. To move from the original intent of the policy will discourage this.

Whereas: In a job market environment that resume evaluation is becoming more and more automated by AI, particularly for entry level jobs affecting recently graduating seniors it becomes more important than ever for students and alumni to have those qualifications listed.

Whereas: Under the proposal by Dr. Strom et. al it would promote interdisciplinarity allowing students to seek out additional programs and expand their breadth of knowledge, a goal in line with the mission of a liberal arts education.

Whereas: The application of the reinterpretation of the policy had been sporadic and uneven with the original understanding being applied up until this year and with professors being able to identify some seniors graduating in the Spring of 2021 where their graduation petitions were granted following the old interpretation and some graduating seniors that were blocked under the new interpretation, creating an unequal application of the policy

Whereas: This proposal and addition of the clarifying statement has been endorsed by the Associate Dean of Academics.

Whereas: This proposal and addition of the clarifying statement has been endorsed by the chairs of the following interdisciplinary departments many of whom rely on the double counting of courses in order to survive: American Studies; Anthropology; Archeology; Art History; Classics; Data Analytics; Ethics; History; International Relations; Jewish Studies; Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Middle East and North Africa Studies; Philosophy; Political Science; Public Policy and Political Economy; Religious Studies; and Sexuality, Women, and Gender Studies.

Whereas: This proposal and addition of the clarifying statement has been endorsed by the President of SGA, the Vice President of SGA, the President-elect of SGA, the Academic Affairs Chair of SGA, and by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board of SGA

Be it Hereby Resolved, The Senate of the Student Government Association of Rollins College will:

1. Endorse the permanent change to the CLA policy governing the double counting of courses to insert the following sentence “If students are enrolled in more than two programs, then they may double count half the number of courses in the smaller program toward more than one other program. Each program dyad will be treated separately” such that the policy language should now read “If students are enrolled in more than one major or minor, they may double count no more than half the number of courses in the smaller program. If the smaller program requires an odd number of courses, the student may round up. If students are enrolled in more than two programs, then they may double count half the number of courses in the smaller program toward more than one other program. Each program dyad will be treated separately. No course may be counted for more than two programs.”
2. Whereas, in such a situation where the permanent change isn’t immediately available due to a pending study, research, or further faculty debate on the matter, endorse the proposal to follow the more liberal interpretation for graduating seniors until such a time as those deliberations are completed.