

## **BAS Proposal from University Curriculum Committee – Sept. 24, 2014**

**Goal:** To develop a Bachelor of Applied Sciences degree that a technical community college graduate can complete in a minimum of 60 hours.

**Background:** Associate of Applied Sciences and Associate of Sciences degrees are typically seen as terminal degrees. Many non-traditional age students have completed AAS or AS degrees, have been working in their jobs for a while, and now wish to complete a Bachelor's degree in order to move up in their career.

### **Differences between BAS Degrees and a BA or BS degree**

- A BS degree is usually more specialized than a BA degree, with more hours of coursework required in the major than in a BA degree.
- BA degrees are typically a minimum of 120 hours, while BS degrees are typically a minimum of 126 hours.
- BAS degrees are completion degrees for students with an AAS or AS degrees, who have typically been in the workforce for some time after getting their degrees from a community college. Students eligible to pursue a BAS degree have typically completed preparation to become licensed or certified in some field in the associates degree program.

### **Structure of Degree** (what is highlighted in red is what the UCC voted on):

- AS or AAS degree will transfer in for the BAS degree (not the AA degree)
- 120 hour minimum
- Recommended hour breakdown:
  - 21-30 hours in LAC (based on competencies, not specific courses) – there might be additional courses deemed to meet LAC competencies for these students that are not currently LAC courses. We also assume that students are bringing in credits for approximately half of the LAC. The LAC requirements met may be articulated by degree or by institution.
  - 21-30 hours in content area – developed/offered by content experts in departments
  - 0-18 hours electives - the 0-18 hours of electives could be used to help meet LAC requirements, the foreign language exit requirement, or additional content courses, if needed. In the future, these credits might also be designed as a set of core courses that all BAS degree students be required to take, outside of the LAC.
- Still to be decided:
  - Foreign language exit requirement : Should this be included as part of LAC requirements? in electives? partially required? or waived for BAS degrees?
  - Should work history be required for admission? Some schools require a minimum amount of work history before students are awarded the BAS degree
  - What are the GPA requirements for admission? The current UNI policy is a 2.0 for 60 hours transferred in; should this apply to BAS transfers?

- Should there be a set of courses that most/all BAS students take? Areas mentioned included courses on Technical Writing, Conflict Management, Leadership Skills, Business and Professional Communication, Legal & Social Environment of Business, etc.
- Next steps:
  - Present proposal to Faculty Senate
  - Call together interested parties from each area + LACC representatives, to hash out common courses & to assign interested parties research related to their targeted students/community colleges, as they are preparing the content course list offerings and suggestions for common core for BAS students
  - Get HLC permission to offer BAS degree program

#### **Who Participated in Discussion at the UCC:**

- Members of the UCC
- Groups represented with potential interest for developing a BAS degree program: Criminal justice (Phyllis Baker & Gayle Rhineberger-Dunn), technology (Shahram Varzavand), athletic training (Todd Evans), and organizational leadership (Laura Terlip)
- Also present were 3 administrators (Kent Johnson, Brenda Bass, & John Fritch), 3 Faculty Senators (Laura Terlip, Jennifer Cooley, Todd Evans), and the Director of the LAC.

#### **Overall Impact of Having BAS Degree at UNI:**

- Overall increase in student population
- Attract successful non-traditional students who have successfully completed AAS/AS degree and licensing requirements. These students have already demonstrated an ability to complete a degree that includes a minimum number of Liberal Arts Core classes (minimum typically 15 hours).
- Serve non-traditional students who have established careers in their field and who desire to advance into professional positions
- Potential for building stronger relationships with community colleges
- Development and delivery of online offerings and/or need to develop alternate delivery of already-existing and/or new courses
- Will eventually require more faculty, faculty development to teach courses, and resources