

Report of the Committee on Degrees
Academic Year 2001-2002

For Academic Year 2001-2002, the following faculty served on the Committee on Degrees: Patty Zwollo (Biology), Carla Buck (Modern Languages and Literatures), Suzanne Hagedorn (English), and Robert Kohl (Kinesiology). The Dean of Undergraduate Studies is the permanent chair of the committee.

The Committee continues to closely adhere to policies as they are articulated in the Undergraduate Catalog and is pleased that the number of petitions considered by the Committee of the whole remains stable. It is noteworthy that for the first time in memory, the Committee on Degrees did not have to meet on 11 May--the day before graduation. The policy 'if it can count, it must count' appeared as an issue in Fall 2001. Briefly, some students who desire to double concentrate in a traditional discipline and International Relations or Public Policy had been experiencing difficulty in achieving IR or PP requirements because of the restriction against not having more than two courses count for both concentrations. DAR bundles all Government courses, for example, with the Government concentration, while in reality several of those courses were taken to satisfy the IR or Public Policy requirements. The COD approved all petitions to waive the 'if it can count, it must count rule' and requested the EPC to clarify the policy.

Petitions to COD fall into two categories: 1) those that the COD considers and 2) those that the Dean of Undergraduate Studies approves on behalf of the COD.

For category 1, the COD considered 93 petitions and approved 65 in AY 2001-2002. Some of the common requests were:

- Compensate for mistakes printed in the students Degree Audit Report (DAR)
- Waive the ten-semester rule
- Count transfer (after W&M matriculation) of study abroad courses for GER
- Waive the senior residency requirements (above 7 credits)

For category 2, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies considered 105 petitions in Fall 2001 and 86 in Spring 2002. Most were approved. The most frequent requests were to:

- Waive the senior residency requirement (7 or fewer credits)
- Waive the senior residency requirement to study abroad
- Change concentration requirements
- Approve late declarations of concentrations in Interdisciplinary programs
- Permission to not count AP or transfer credit for freshmen
 - Fall 2001: 12 petitions for AP and 1 transfer course
 - Spring 2002: 3 petitions for AP credit

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Watkinson,
Dean of Undergraduate Studies
& Chair of the Committee on Degrees
5 November 2002