To: Academic Senate
From: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)
Subject: Discontinuance of Options in B.A. in Liberal Studies

Purpose: Approval by the Senate


Background Information:
The Liberal Studies Program is substantially revising its major in order to streamline it and to put it in better compliance with the new standards imposed by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) for multi-subject preparation. The Program requested that the above 19 options be discontinued, leaving about 20 other options. The ones to be dropped were rarely used by students or, in some cases, are identical to a minor, which Liberal Studies majors will still be allowed to use to fulfill part of their major requirements. In all cases but one (discussed below), the chair of the department has agreed to the discontinuance of the option.

The Modern Languages Option was originally on the list of options to be discontinued but was removed from the list at the request of the Modern Languages Department Chair. Although very few students have taken this option in recent years, it does contribute to the CCTC’s new content standards. The Chair also requested that the Sign Language option be retained but, on the recommendation of the Director of the Liberal Studies Program, this option remains on the discontinuance list because it would not help students meet the new content standards.

There was some discussion in the CIC meeting on May 9 about the wisdom of dropping the option in Mathematics and Integrative Sciences, but the Director of the Liberal Studies Program explained that the new Liberal Studies Major will have 20 units of math required for every major and that the Integrative Sciences Option, at 48 units, was so large it would bring students well over the minimum 180 units for graduation. (Most options require at or near the minimum of 20 units.)

These options are in three colleges, whose curriculum committees need to consider the proposal to discontinue them:
ALSS - will consider the proposal at its meeting on May 26
Business and Economics - already approved the proposal
Science - will consider the proposal at its meeting on May 24

CIC reversed the usual order for curricular approvals and considered the proposal at its May 9 meeting so that it could meet the Senate deadlines for '04-05 and have the opportunity to be approved before the July 1 Catalog deadline. CIC approved the proposal by a vote of 7-0-1, contingent on approval by all the colleges.