MEMORANDUM

TO: President Ray M. Bowen

SUBJECT: Field of Study Resolution

At its regular meeting on December 14, 1998, the Faculty Senate approved a resolution on field of study. Enclosed is a copy of the resolution as sent to all senators.

Thank you for your consideration of this item. I would appreciate your informing me of your action on this recommendation.

Diane S. Kaplan
Speaker, 1998-99

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost
    Dr. Janis Stout, Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost

Approved:

Ray M. Bowen, President

Date

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FIELD OF STUDY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS a vital objective of the baccalaureate degree is to prepare students to perform successfully in jobs contributing to the Texas economy in an internationally competitive marketplace, and

WHEREAS the responsibility for the preparation of students in their careers is vested in the baccalaureate degree-granting institutions, and

WHEREAS colleges and universities have developed the content of their degree programs according to the needs, capabilities, and goals of their own students and of their future employers, and

WHEREAS in many subjects these degree programs are highly variable, reflecting the variable needs of the future graduates, and

WHEREAS Texas needs a full range of educational opportunities for its college and university students, ranging from basic courses to the most advanced courses taught anywhere in the country, and

WHEREAS the state has mandated that a universally-prescribed lower division sequence in each field of study must be accepted as the lower-division component of every degree in that field of study, no matter its purpose or student population,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that responsibility for appraising the qualifications of students to enter upper division courses in baccalaureate degree programs must be vested solely with the institution granting the degree and based upon objective standards which the baccalaureate degree institutions shall establish,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate anticipates that the state-mandated field of study requirements will likely have severe negative consequences on the preparation of students transferring into upper division courses from other institutions and likewise could severely affect the quality of the most rigorous, creative, and highly developed degree programs at state baccalaureate institutions.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University recommends that the field-of-study provision of the Core Curriculum law should be replaced by a requirement that the THECB should maintain a list of the lower division requirements of each degree in each college and university in the state. These requirements should be consistent with the Texas Common Course Numbering System whenever possible, with exceptions allowed only when approved by THECB. The list maintained should be made available to every student in every public college and university in the state, thus allowing the students to readily determine which courses they should take to prepare themselves for study at an institution to which they propose to transfer.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University recommends that the state should require articulation agreements between baccalaureate granting institutions and junior and community colleges.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University calls upon the Provost and President to join the Faculty Senate in support of this resolution.
THE FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Position on Field of Study Curricula

Whereas degree programs at different universities are often designed to serve different purposes; and

Whereas the students in attendance at different universities often come to these universities with different types of preparation and with different needs; and

Whereas the faculty at a given university are the best judge of what lower division courses need to be offered to enable students to succeed in the upper divisions courses at that university;

Therefore, be it resolved that it is a fundamental responsibility of the faculty of each university to develop the entire degree program, i.e., both lower and upper division courses, in each field of study for their own institution.