RESOLUTION
Minimum Hours Mandated by University for Undergraduate Degree

Whereas, President Gates and the Council on the Educational Environment requested that the Faculty Senate review the university’s minimum requirement of 128 semester credit hours for a bachelor’s degree; and

Whereas at least one academic college has expressed an interest in offering a bachelor’s degree that requires fewer than the current mandated minimum of 128 semester credit hours; and

Whereas Vision 2020 benchmark universities, among others, have a minimum 120 semester credit hour requirement and bachelor degrees with this minimum*; and

Whereas each major academic unit would continue to have the discretion of maintaining the current minimum semester credit hours for its undergraduate degree; and

Whereas the option of offering an undergraduate degree program with a minimum of 120 semester credit hours should have no adverse effect on the perceived or actual stature of Texas A&M University; therefore be it

Resolved, Texas A&M University should reduce the minimum hours required for a bachelor’s degree from 128 semester credit hours to 120 semester credit hours.

* A sample of universities that offer bachelor degrees with this minimum include: University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Los Angeles, University of California at San Diego (quarter system), University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Rice University, University of Texas at Austin.

Approved by Academic Affairs Committee 10/20/03
Approved by the Faculty Senate 11/10/03