4. Change in Curriculum

**College of Liberal Arts**
Department of Communication
- B.A. in Communication
- B.A. in Telecommunication Media Studies
- B.S. in Telecommunication Media Studies
December 7, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: University Curriculum Committee
   Academic Support Services

Through: Dr. Pamela Matthews, Associate Dean
         College of Liberal Arts

Through: Dr. Richard L. Street, Jr., Head
         Department of Communication

From: Michael T. Stephenson, Chairperson
      Departmental Undergraduate Instruction Committee
      Department of Communication

Subject: Reducing Hours from 128 to 120 for the B.A. in Communication, the
         B. A. in Telecommunication Media Studies, and the B.S. in
         Telecommunication Media Studies

The Undergraduate Instruction Committee in the Department of Communication met
recently to address the mandate of the state legislature to reduce the number of credit
hours for our majors from 128 to 120. The committee finds no compelling reason to
retain the number of hours at 128. Therefore, to accommodate this mandate, we
recommend that the Department of Communication reduce the number of elective hours
by 8 for all three undergraduate degrees in the department.

The rationale for this decision is fairly straightforward. Currently, the number of hours in
the major is 33, hence dropping this number further is really not viable. A second
alternative would have been to eliminate the minor. The number of hours required for a
minor fluctuates by department, but this number usually is between 15-18 hours. The
committee felt that this option was also not the best solution as it would leave open the
option for students to select electives in a way that was unsystematic and unfocused.
Moreover, a communication degree with a minor in another content area (such as
business, political science, English, or any number of other options) is generally believed
to be a strength of the program. The only remaining option, then, was to reduce the
number of elective hours available to majors.

This recommendation was forwarded and approved by the faculty in the Department of
Communication as well as the College of Liberal Arts’ Undergraduate Instruction
Committee and Liberal Arts Council.