16. Special Consideration

**Undergraduate Programs and Academic Services**
Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships
University Studies Degree
Area of Concentration - Honors
November 19, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Curriculum Committee

FROM: J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services

SUBJECT: University Studies Area of Concentration

Attached is a proposal for an Area of Concentration in Honors. The requirements that are being proposed were developed by a subcommittee of the Honors Program Advisory Committee and modified and approved by the full committee; a list of membership, representing each college, is attached.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions, please contact me or Kristin Harper, at 845-3210.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Vet Integrative Biosciences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5-2923</td>
<td><a href="mailto:labott@cwm.tamu.edu">labott@cwm.tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td>ARIZPE, Jillian</td>
<td>(08) Student Representative #1</td>
<td>847-0106</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:neonflamingo@tamu.edu">neonflamingo@tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td>5-3452</td>
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<td>FUNKHouser, Ed (HPAC Chair)</td>
<td>Exec. Dir.-Honors, Chair, Ex-Officio</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ed-funkhouser@tamu.edu">ed-funkhouser@tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td>HANNAH, James</td>
<td>(10) QA at Lg</td>
<td>College Station campus phone: 5-2295</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhannah@tamu.edu">jhannah@tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>TAMU-Qatar Liberal Arts Program</td>
<td>Qatar Support Office, 256 Bizzell Hall West</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.hannah@qatar.tamu.edu">james.hannah@qatar.tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td>KLEIN, Andrew</td>
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<td>5-7141</td>
<td><a href="mailto:klein@tamu.edu">klein@tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td>KOTINEK, Jon</td>
<td>(10) Asst. Dir.-Honors, Ex-Officio</td>
<td>5-1957</td>
<td></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jkotinek@tamu.edu">jkotinek@tamu.edu</a></td>
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<td>KRACHT, James</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Teaching, Learning &amp; Culture</td>
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<td>5-9663</td>
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</table>
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Texas A&M University
University Studies Degree
Proposed Area of Concentration

Area of Area of Concentration: Honors

Department: Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships

College: Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Programs & Associate Provost for Academic Services

Office responsible for advising students in this Area of Concentration:

a. Office Name/Location: Academic Building, Room 101

b. Telephone Number: 845-1957

c. Email: ed-funkhouser@tamu.edu

The University Studies degree is an innovative interdisciplinary degree with an area of concentration and two minors, at least one of which is in a different college from that of the area of concentration. The degree serves two main groups of students: first, students who are in good academic standing (GPA of 2.0 or above) but who are unable to find or gain access to a major of interest and (b) students who specifically seek a broad interdisciplinary combination of coursework that is unavailable through existing degree programs.

The educational objective of the University Studies Degree is to provide students with an interdisciplinary academic degree that will prepare them for a successful life and career or for graduate school.

Please append two items to this sheet:

1. A statement that: A) describes the area of concentration and distinguishes it from existing majors, B) explains how this area of concentration would serve at least one of the two main groups of students cited above, and C) indicates how this area of concentration would promote the purposes of the university studies degree as described above. In the case of a College submission, please indicate support from the faculty.

2. The enclosed form for listing courses that will be used in the area of concentration that will be required as prerequisites, and will be used for university core curriculum requirements.

Reviewed and approved by:

For Interdisciplinary Degrees Only:
Texas A&M University Honors Program
University Studies Degree
Proposal for Area of Concentration: Honors

This statement performs the four functions required on the cover sheet: A) describes the area of concentration and distinguishes it from existing majors, B) explains how this area of concentration would serve at least one of the two main groups of students cited on the cover sheet, C) indicates how this area of concentration would promote the purposes of the university studies degree as described above and D) indicates support for the proposal from the honors faculty.

Honors Area of Concentration:

The University Studies Area of Concentration provided by the University Honors Program will have the name of “Honors.” This area of concentration will be a unique educational experience in which students complete an individualized plan of study that is designed to encourage the creation of new knowledge.

This curricular option will be supported by: 1) a flexible area of concentration that is tailored to each student, 2) faculty, staff and high-achieving students committed to interdisciplinary education, 3) inquiry and research opportunities that cross fields of study, 4) an inquiry capstone experience through the University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program, and 5) academic enrichment opportunities currently offered by the University Honors Program.

When an honors student applies to the Honors Area of Concentration within the University Studies degree, an Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee will be appointed to develop the student’s Honors Area of Concentration. The Honors Area of Concentration will cross department as well as college boundaries.

Advisory Committee:

Similar to a graduate school experience, the student will interact with his or her Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee from the point the student is accepted in the Honors Area of Concentration until the student graduates. The Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee will be composed of one academic advisor from the University Honors Program and at least two university faculty members. This committee will be the primary approval body and support structure for the student. In consultation with the student, the committee will:

- create a tailored area of concentration composed of courses from multiple disciplines;
- choose two existing minor fields of study that support the student’s interdisciplinary area of concentration; and
- create a degree plan that is aligned with the academic guidelines of the University Honors Program as well as with University-wide degree requirements.

When a student’s advisory committee approves the student’s degree plan, the committee will decide whether the plan will result in a B.S. in University Studies-Honors or in a B.A. in University Studies-Honors.
Inquiry and Research:

Early on, students will begin the process of creating new knowledge through inquiry and research. Students will have independent studies with faculty, and students will combine the knowledge they are gaining in their coursework with critical and creative thinking in order to create new knowledge. As indicated in the attached “Course Form,” the achievement of these objectives will be facilitated by five requirements: 1) the freshman honors interdisciplinary course, 2) the sophomore honors research/creative activity, 3) the junior experiential learning activity, 4) the senior honors inquiry capstone, and 5) the completion of 33 honors credits.

Capstone Experience:

The Inquiry Capstone Experience will accomplish the following:
- Provide excellent preparation for post-baccalaureate study;
- Encourage the student to reflect on his or her undergraduate educational experience;
- Allow the student an opportunity to become a knowledge-creator and thereby enter the larger academic community; and
- Demonstrate the intersection of disciplines studied in the student’s area of concentration.

Students’ entire undergraduate experience would prepare them for the inquiry capstone experience, which would culminate in the senior year with the creation of new knowledge in a form that is seen as scholarly. For example: an undergraduate thesis, a publishable journal paper, a patentable invention, an architectural design, a new software program, or a new laboratory process.

Students to Be Served:

As stated in the Strawser Report (March, 2006), one of the five student groups whom a University Studies Degree would serve is “high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education” (p. 1). The Area of Concentration proposed by the University Honors Program would specifically address this desired goal by serving undergraduate students with a cumulative GPR at Texas A&M of 3.5 or higher.

The Value of Promoting Broad Interdisciplinary Study:

The goal of the University Honors Program’s area of concentration in the University Studies Degree is to allow students to create individualized fields of study through the process of interdisciplinary study and inquiry.

The value of such interdisciplinary study has been widely acknowledged. As E. O. Wilson (Professor Emeritus, Harvard University) observes in Constilience: The Unity of Knowledge (1998): “Legitimate human progress is too often brought to a crawl because people don’t think or communicate across disciplines. . . . Many organizations are collections of seemingly disconnected departments. Many education institutions are often seen as collections of disconnected disciplines.” Gary Marx (Futurist and President of the Center for Public Outreach) elaborates on the need to connect academic disciplines in today’s university when he remarks in Sixteen Trends (2006) that “education faces substantial challenges in helping students learn and
think across disciplines. While educators are committed to teaching their subject, and most organizations are composed of departments that specialize, someone needs to be paying attention to connective tissue.” It is the goal of the Honors area of concentration to provide an education for those students who are interested in the “connective tissue” that has not yet been explored.

**Support of the Proposed Area of Concentration by Faculty:**

The faculty committee responsible for oversight of the University Honors Program is the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Texas A&M University Faculty Senate. This Advisory Committee is composed of one faculty representative from each College at Texas A&M University that offers undergraduate degrees. The committee includes several ex officio members: three at-large honors faculty members, four staff members from the Honors Office (some of whom hold faculty positions), and three student representatives. That committee discussed the concept of an honors option in the University Studies degree at a meeting on March 26, 2007. The committee endorsed the exploration of an academically demanding honors area of concentration and authorized the creation of a sub-committee for that task. The sub-committee identified the key characteristics desired in an honors area of concentration, directed three members of the subcommittee to draft and subsequently revise a proposal, which the sub-committee unanimously approved on July 13, 2007. At a meeting on September 5, 2007, the Honors Programs Advisory Committee: a) discussed the sub-committee’s proposal, b) revised the proposal to clarify the name of the area of concentration and the role of a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee, c) approved the revised proposal that is presented in the present document, d) directed that the proposal for an Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies degree be forwarded first to Dr. Martyn Gunn, Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services, for his review, and e) recommended that (with the approval of Dr. Gunn) the proposal should be forwarded to the University Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate as has been the case with other proposals for areas of concentration with in the University Studies degree.
COURSE FORM

There needs to be a minimum of 6 hours at 400-level and 36 hours of 300-400 level coursework in residence at Texas A&M University.

A. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS COURSE FORM: Select 21-24 hours from among the following courses for the area of concentration. If there will be more than 24 hours in the area of concentration please include a justification. Two approved writing courses will be required for the University Studies degree. The courses may be in the area of concentration or the minors. Please indicate writing courses in the area of concentration, if any, with a W following the course number (TAMU 400 W). If courses required for the area of concentration include a course or courses from outside the department of the area of concentration, please include a letter of support from the department(s) offering the course(s). Courses listed as part of the University Core Curriculum do not need a letter of support.

NOTES FROM THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM:
1) The area of concentration in Honors requires 24 credits.
2) For a student to complete the University Studies B.A. degree or B.S. degree with an area of concentration in Honors, the student must earn a total of 33 honors credits. The honors credits will include all of the credits taken to fulfill requirements listed in Table 2 (16-13 credits). The balance of the honors credits (20-18 credits) may be taken in the student’s other courses in the area of concentration (Table 1), in the student’s minors, in the student’s University Core Curriculum courses (Table 4), and/or in the student’s free elective courses.

TABLE 1. The following _8-11_ hours of course work are required*

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<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>The courses in the Honors area of concentration will be selected by each student’s advisory committee consisting of at least two faculty members (from academic units relevant to the student’s area of concentration and/or the student’s minors) and one honors advisor (from the Office of Honors Programs &amp; Academic Scholarships). At least 3 credits out of the 8-11 credits in TABLE 1 must be at the upper-division level (300- or 400-level credits).</td>
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<td>“W” Courses: If two “W” courses are not included in the courses taken in one or both of the student’s minors, or in the courses listed in Table 2, the advisory committee will ensure that they are included among the 8-11 credits selected here.</td>
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<td>Graduate Credit Option: With the appropriate approval, the credits in Table 1 may be fulfilled with graduate courses (except for the W-course requirement). [See the Texas A&amp;M University 2006-2007 Graduate Catalog, page 178; and Texas A&amp;M University Undergraduate Catalog #130 (2007-2008), page 162.]</td>
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**Revised TABLE 2 (page 6)**
*Up-Dated, December 13, 2007*

### TABLE 2 (revised)
Select 16-13 hours from the following courses:

**NOTE:** All credits in Table 2 must be honors credits.

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<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
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<td><strong>Freshman Honors Interdisciplinary Course Requirement</strong> (To be selected in consultation with student’s advisory committee. Examples of such courses are:)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGLS 101 or 105</td>
<td>Modern Agriculture Systems &amp; Renewable Natural Resources, or Research in Agriculture &amp; Life Sciences, or</td>
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<td>BIMS 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Biomedical Science, or</td>
<td>(1) or</td>
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<td>BIOL/MATH 281</td>
<td>Seminar in Quantitative Biology/Mathematics</td>
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<td>BUSN 125</td>
<td>Business Learning Community, or</td>
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<td>ENDS 101</td>
<td>Design Process, or</td>
<td>(3) or</td>
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<td>ENGR 101</td>
<td>Energy: Resources, Utilization &amp; Importance to Society, or</td>
<td>(4) or</td>
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<td>GEOS 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Geoscience, or</td>
<td>(3) or</td>
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<td>LBAR 181</td>
<td>Freshman Honors Seminar, or</td>
<td>(1) or</td>
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<td>Or a similar introductory interdisciplinary course</td>
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**Sophomore Honors Research/Creative Requirement** (In an appropriate academic field as determined in consultation with the student’s advisory committee)

| 285                    | Directed Studies, or                                     | (3) or       |
| 291                    | Research                                                 | (3)          |

**Junior Honors Experiential Learning Requirement** (In an appropriate academic field as determined in consultation with the student’s advisory committee)

| 484                    | Internship, or                                           | (3) or       |
| 485                    | Directed Studies, or                                     | (3) or       |
| 491                    | Research (Could be a summer research experience such as an REU. Additional courses/credits could be used in Table #1 above.), or | (3) or       |
| Variable               | Study Abroad credits, or                                 | (3) or       |
| Variable               | Semester Away credits                                    | (3)          |

**Senior Honors Inquiry Capstone Requirement:**
*The University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program*

| 485/485W               | Directed Studies, or                                     | (1-6) &/or   |
| 491/491W               | Research                                                 | (1-6) &/or   |
| 497/497W               | Independent Honors Studies                               | (1-6)        |

*If the Area of Concentration requires students to select courses from a list of pre-selected combinations, please duplicate this table; e.g. two course from column A, two courses from column B*

### TABLE 3
Prerequisite courses not included in the University Core Curriculum or listed above:

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<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>This could vary with each student, depending upon the courses selected in consultation with the student’s advisory committee. The advisory committees will be alert to minimize such course choices consistent with the intellectual and academic integrity of students’ individualized degree plans using the Honors area of concentration.</td>
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B. Student will select two minors (30-36 hours). One must be from outside the college offering the area of concentration.

10 of 28 X
C. Free electives (17-23). [Instructions on Course Form: “If there will be fewer than 17 hours of free electives please include a justification in the preceding 2-3 page statement.”] NOTE: So long as a student’s advisory committee determines that prerequisite courses are not needed for the intellectual and academic integrity of that particular student’s Honors area of concentration, a University Studies degree with this area of concentration will have 17-23 free electives depending on whether the two minor selected have a combined total of 30, 33, or 36 credits.

D. Specify courses in the University Core Curriculum\(^1,2,3\) that will be required for this area of concentration (43 hours). Please maintain as much flexibility as possible.

### TABLE 4:

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<th>Course Prefix &amp; Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>ENGL 104 Composition and Rhetoric</td>
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<td>Any other course in this category of the University Core Curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Any courses in this category of the University Core Curriculum (at least 3 credits must be in a MATH course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>4 credits in the following courses: BIOL 101, 107, 111, BIOL 113/123 CHEM 101, 103/123, 107, GEOL 101, PHYS 201, or PHYS 218</td>
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<td>An additional 4 credits in any course(s) in the natural sciences category of the University Core Curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Any course in this category of the University Core Curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual &amp; Performing Arts</td>
<td>Any course(s) in this category of the University Core Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences</td>
<td>Any course in this category of the University Core Curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>American History</td>
<td>Any courses in American and Texas history (but no more than 3 credits in Texas history)</td>
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<td>U.S. Government</td>
<td>POLS 206 American National Government</td>
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<td>POLS 207 State and Local Government</td>
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<td>International &amp; Cultural Diversity</td>
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<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>KINE 198 Health and Fitness Activity</td>
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<tr>
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<td>KINE 199 Required Physical Activity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES:

1. To be selected from the University Core Curriculum.

2. There is a graduation requirement which includes 6 hours of International and cultural diversity courses. Refer to the International and Cultural Diversity table for a list of acceptable courses. A course satisfying a University Core category, a college/department requirement, or as a free elective may be used to satisfy this requirement.

3. Completion in high school of two units of the same foreign language or one year of college work is required for graduation.
Proposal for an Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Undergraduate Degree at Texas A&M University

**SUPPORT LETTERS**

The following support materials relate to the specific courses cited in the proposal. In most cases these materials are memos of support from the Colleges or Departments that offer those courses. In two cases, courses are in the University Core Curriculum and therefore do not require a memo of support. In those cases, copies of the relevant pages of the 2007-2008 Texas A&M University Catalog (#130) are attached with the two specific courses marked.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>Academic Unit Offering Course:</th>
<th>Support Material:</th>
<th>Page:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGLS 101 &amp; 105</td>
<td>College of Agriculture &amp; Life Sciences</td>
<td>Approval Memo</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIMS 101</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences Program, College of Veterinary Medicine &amp; Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>Approval Memo</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL/MATH 281</td>
<td>Department of Biology, and Department of Mathematics (cross-listed), College of Science</td>
<td>Approval Memo</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Approval Memo</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSN 125</td>
<td>Mays Business School</td>
<td>Approval Memo</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDS 101 (Univ. Core Curriculum Course)</td>
<td>Department of Architecture, College of Architecture</td>
<td>Catalog Copy of University Core Curriculum</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 101 (Univ. Core Curriculum Course)</td>
<td>Look College of Engineering</td>
<td>Catalog Copy of University Core Curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOS 105</td>
<td>College of Geosciences</td>
<td>Approval Memo</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBAR 181</td>
<td>College of Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Approval Memo</td>
<td>23</td>
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</table>
December 4, 2007

TO: Ann L. Kenimer, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Professor of Biological & Agricultural Engineering, and of Water Management & Hydrological Science
2142 TAMU

FROM: Kurt Ritter, Associate Director, Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships, and Professor of Communication

SUBJECT: Seeking Approval for Listing AGLS 105 as a Course Option in the Proposed Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Degree

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval to list AGLS 105 as a course option that could be used in the proposed honors area of concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposal for an honors area of concentration includes AGLS 105-Research in Agriculture & Life Sciences (1 credit) as an example of a course that might be selected by a student's interdisciplinary advisory committee to fulfill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Nine courses are cited as examples in the report—one from each of the Colleges offering undergraduate degrees. (Please see page 6 of the attached proposal.)

Enrollment Impact: The impact of the University Studies honors area of concentration on enrollment in AGLS 105 will be small—at most only a few students each year. First, the honors area of concentration is intended for a particular group of honors students: "high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education." The vast majority of honors students will continue to enroll in traditional majors, as they do now. Second, in the honors area of concentration a student's interdisciplinary advisory committee will have numerous options from which to select a course to fill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Third, students in this area of concentration would only seek enrollment in the course when it is offered in an honors section.

Background: The University is in the process of developing various areas of concentration for the new University Studies undergraduate degree. An undergraduate student accepted in the University Studies degree program must complete an area of concentration (21-24 credits), two minors (15-18 credits each), the University Core Curriculum (43 credits) as well as any prerequisite and/or elective courses. The implementation committee for the University Studies degree authorized the University Honors Program to propose an honors area of concentration.

The Proposal: The attached proposal was initially developed by an honors faculty committee that submitted it to Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser (the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, and a Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, of...
Request for Approval to List AGLS 105 as an Option in the Honors Area of Concentration Proposal

Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences, and of Biotechnology). Professor Funkhouser refined the proposal and submitted it to the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Faculty Senate. That committee includes a faculty representative from each College at the university that offers an undergraduate degree. The Honors Programs Advisory Committee refined the proposal further, approved it, and forwarded it to Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services. Professor Gunn approved the proposal and has forwarded it to the University Curriculum Committee, which is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting on December 14, 2007.

Request: By your signature below, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the listing of AGLS 105 (1 credit) as a course option in the attached proposal. It would be helpful if your response could reach the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships by December 13, 2007. It could be sent as a PDF attachment to an e-mail message to me at <kurt-riter@tamu.edu>; it could be sent to me by FAX (845-0300); it could be delivered to me in Room 101 of the Academic Building; or I would be happy to have a representative of the Honors Office pick it up from your office. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 845-0309 or at <kurt-riter@tamu.edu>.

Approved/Disapproved

(please strike out the word that does not apply)

Signature

12/13/07
Texas A&M University
Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships

December 4, 2007

TO: Frank H. (Skip) Landis, Assistant Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
4465 TAMU

FROM: Kurt Ritter, Associate Director, Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships, and Professor of Communication

SUBJECT: Seeking Approval for Listing BIMS 101 as a Course Option in the Proposed Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Degree

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval to list BIMS 101 as a course option that could be used in the proposed honors area of concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposal for an honors area of concentration includes BIMS 101—Introduction to Biomedical Science (1 credit) as an example of a course that might be selected by a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee to fulfill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Nine courses are cited as examples in the report—one from each of the Colleges offering undergraduate degrees. (Please see page 6 of the attached proposal.)

Enrollment Impact: The impact of the University Studies honors area of concentration on enrollment in BIMS 101 will be small—at most only a few students each year. First, the honors area of concentration is intended for a particular group of honors students: “high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education.” The vast majority of honors students will continue to enroll in traditional majors, as they do now. Second, in the honors area of concentration a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee will have numerous options from which to select a course to fill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Third, students in this area of concentration would only seek enrollment in the course when it is offered in an honors section.

Background: The University is in the process of developing various areas of concentration for the new University Studies undergraduate degree. An undergraduate student accepted in the University Studies degree program must complete an area of concentration (21-24 credits), two minors (15-18 credits each), the University Core Curriculum (43 credits) as well as any prerequisite and/or elective courses. The implementation committee for the University Studies degree authorized the University Honors Program to propose an honors area of concentration.

The Proposal: The attached proposal was initially developed by an honors faculty committee that submitted it to Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser (the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, and a Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, of
Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences, and of Biotechnology). Professor Funkhouser refined the proposal and submitted it to the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Faculty Senate. That committee includes a faculty representative from each College at the university that offers an undergraduate degree. The Honors Programs Advisory Committee refined the proposal further, approved it, and forwarded it to Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services. Professor Gunn approved the proposal and has forwarded it to the University Curriculum Committee, which is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting on December 14, 2007.

**Request:** By your signature below, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the listing of BIMS 101 (1 credit) as a course option in the attached proposal. It would be helpful if your response could reach the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships by December 13, 2007. It could be sent as a PDF attachment to an e-mail message to me at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>; it could be sent to me by FAX (845-0300); it could be delivered to me in Room 101 of the Academic Building; or I would be happy to have a representative of the Honors Office pick it up from your office. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 845-0309 or at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>.

**APPROVED/DISAPPROVED**

(please strike out the word that does not apply)

[Signature]

12/11/07
TO: Professor Thomas D. McKnight, Associate Head, Department of Biology
3258 TAMU

FROM: Kurt Ritter, Associate Director, Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships

SUBJECT: Seeking Approval for Listing BIOL/MATH 281 as a Course Option in the Proposed Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Degree

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval to list BIOL/MATH 281 (a cross-listed course) as a course option that could be used in the proposed honors area of concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree. A version of this letter was originally sent to Dr. Tim Scott, Associate Dean of the College of Sciences, but he recently indicated that this request will be handled by you and Professor G. Donald Allen, the Associate Head of the Department of Mathematics, so I am sending each of you an updated version of the letter. My understanding is that Dr. Scott has sent you a copy of the proposal for the Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposal for an honors area of concentration includes BIOL/MATH 281-Seminar in Quantitative Biology/Seminar in Mathematics (1 credit) as an example of a course that might be selected by a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee to fulfill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Nine courses are cited as examples in the report—one from each of the Colleges offering undergraduate degrees. (Please see page 6 of the proposal.)

Enrollment Impact: The impact of the University Studies honors area of concentration on enrollment in BIOL/MATH 281 will be small—at most only a few students each year. First, the honors area of concentration is intended for a particular group of honors students: “high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education.” The vast majority of honors students will continue to enroll in traditional majors, as they do now. Second, in the honors area of concentration a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee will have numerous options from which to select a course to fill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Third, students in this area of concentration would only seek enrollment in the course when it is offered in an honors section.

Background: The University is in the process of developing various areas of concentration for the new University Studies undergraduate degree. An undergraduate student accepted in the University Studies degree program must complete an area of concentration (21-24 credits), two minors (15-18 credits each), the University Core Curriculum (43 credits) as well as any prerequisite and/or elective courses. The implementation committee for the University Studies degree authorized the University Honors Program to propose an honors area of concentration.
The Proposal: The attached proposal was initially developed by an honors faculty committee that submitted it to Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser (the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, and a Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, of Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences, and of Biotechnology). Professor Funkhouser refined the proposal and submitted it to the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Faculty Senate. That committee includes a faculty representative from each College at the university that offers an undergraduate degree. The Honors Programs Advisory Committee refined the proposal further, approved it, and forwarded it to Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services. Professor Gunn approved the proposal and has forwarded it to the University Curriculum Committee, which is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting at 3:30PM on December 13, 2007. (That meeting was originally scheduled on December 14th but has been moved up a day to avoid a conflict with commencement exercises.)

Request: By your signature below, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the listing of BIOL/MATH 281 (1 credit) as a course option in the attached proposal. It would be helpful if your response could reach the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships by 2:00PM on December 13, 2007. It could be sent as a PDF attachment to an e-mail message to me at <kurt-riter@tamu.edu>; it could be sent to me by FAX (845-0300); it could be delivered to me in Room 101 of the Academic Building; or I would be happy to have a representative of the Honors Office pick it up from your office. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 845-0309 or at <kurt-riter@tamu.edu>.

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED

(please strike out the word that does not apply)

Signature

12/13/2007
TO: Professor G. Donald Allen, Associate Head for Operations, Dept. of Mathematics
3368 TAMU

FROM: Kurt Ritter, Associate Director, Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships

SUBJECT: Seeking Approval for Listing MATH/BIOL 281 as a Course Option in the Proposed Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Degree

December 12, 2007

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval to list MATH/BIOL 281 (a cross-listed course) as a course option that could be used in the proposed honors area of concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree. A version of this letter was originally sent to Dr. Tim Scott, Associate Dean of the College of Science on December 4, 2007, but he recently indicated that this request will be handled by you and Professor Thomas D. McKnight, the Associate Head of the Department of Biology, so I am sending each of you an updated version of the letter. My understanding is that Dr. Scott has sent you a copy of the proposal for the Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposal for an honors area of concentration includes MATH/BIOL 281-Seminar in Quantitative Biology/Seminar in Mathematics (1 credit) as an example of a course that might be selected by a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee to fulfill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Nine courses are cited as examples in the report—one from each of the Colleges offering undergraduate degrees. (Please see page 6 of the proposal.)

Enrollment Impact: The impact of the University Studies honors area of concentration on enrollment in MATH/BIOL 281 will be small—at most only a few students each year. First, the honors area of concentration is intended for a particular group of honors students: “high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education.” The vast majority of honors students will continue to enroll in traditional majors, as they do now. Second, in the honors area of concentration a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee will have numerous options from which to select a course to fill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Third, students in this area of concentration would only seek enrollment in the course when it is offered in an honors section.

Background: The University is in the process of developing various areas of concentration for the new University Studies undergraduate degree. An undergraduate student accepted in the University Studies degree program must complete an area of concentration (21-24 credits), two minors (15-18 credits each), the University Core Curriculum (43 credits) as well as any prerequisite and/or elective courses. The implementation committee for the University Studies degree authorized the University Honors Program to propose an honors area of concentration.
Request for Approval to List MATH/BIOL 281 as an Option in the Honors Area of Concentration Proposal

The Proposal: The attached proposal was initially developed by an honors faculty committee that submitted it to Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser (the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, and a Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, of Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences, and of Biotechnology). Professor Funkhouser refined the proposal and submitted it to the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Faculty Senate. That committee includes a faculty representative from each College at the university that offers an undergraduate degree. The Honors Programs Advisory Committee refined the proposal further, approved it, and forwarded it to Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services. Professor Gunn approved the proposal and has forwarded it to the University Curriculum Committee, which is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting at 3:30PM on December 13, 2007. (That meeting was originally scheduled on December 14th but has been moved up a day to avoid a conflict with commencement exercises.)

Request: By your signature below, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the listing of MATH/BIOL 281 (1 credit) as a course option in the attached proposal. It would be helpful if your response could reach the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships by 2:00PM on December 13, 2007. It could be sent as a PDF attachment to an e-mail message to me at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>; it could be sent to me by FAX (845-0309); it could be delivered to me in Room 101 of the Academic Building; or I would be happy to have a representative of the Honors Office pick it up from your office. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 845-0309 or at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>.

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED:
(please strike out the word that does not apply)

[Signature]

12/13/07
TO: Martha L. (Marty) Louder, Associate Dean, Mays School of Business, and Professor of Accounting & Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence
FROM: Kurt Ritter, Associate Director, Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships, and Professor of Communication
SUBJECT: Seeking Approval for Listing BUSN 125 as a Course Option in the Proposed Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Degree

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval to list BUSN 125 as a course option that could be used in the proposed honors area of concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposal for an honors area of concentration includes BUSN 125-Business Learning Community (3 credits) as an example of a course that might be selected by a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee to fulfill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Nine courses are cited as examples in the report—one from each of the Colleges offering undergraduate degrees. (Please see page 6 of the attached proposal.)

Enrollment Impact: The impact of the University Studies honors area of concentration on enrollment in BUSN 125 will be small—at most only a few students each year. First, the honors area of concentration is intended for a particular group of honors students: “high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education.” The vast majority of honors students will continue to enroll in traditional majors, as they do now. Second, in the honors area of concentration a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee will have numerous options from which to select a course to fill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Third, students in this area of concentration would only seek enrollment in the course when it is offered in an honors section.

Background: The University is in the process of developing various areas of concentration for the new University Studies undergraduate degree. An undergraduate student accepted in the University Studies degree program must complete an area of concentration (21-24 credits), two minors (15-18 credits each), the University Core Curriculum (43 credits) as well as any prerequisite and/or elective courses. The implementation committee for the University Studies degree authorized the University Honors Program to propose an honors area of concentration.

The Proposal: The attached proposal was initially developed by an honors faculty committee that submitted it to Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser (the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, and a Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, of
Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences, and of Biotechnology). Professor Funkhouser refined the proposal and submitted it to the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Faculty Senate. That committee includes a faculty representative from each College at the university that offers an undergraduate degree. The Honors Programs Advisory Committee refined the proposal further, approved it, and forwarded it to Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services. Professor Gunn approved the proposal and has forwarded it to the University Curriculum Committee, which is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting on December 14, 2007.

**Request:** By your signature below, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the listing of BUSN 125 (3 credits) as a course option in the attached proposal. It would be helpful if your response could reach the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships by December 13, 2007. It could be sent as a PDF attachment to an e-mail message to me at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>; it could be sent to me by FAX (845-0300); it could be delivered to me in Room 101 of the Academic Building; or I would be happy to have a representative of the Honors Office pick it up from your office. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 845-0309 or at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>.

**APPROVED/DISAPPROVED**

(please strike out the word that does not apply)

Signature 12/11/07
B. Visual and Performing Arts (3 hours) Acceptable courses are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 324</td>
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<td>ARCH 430</td>
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5. As the human social institutions to undue science, geograph:

A. Social and Beh:
- ADEV 340
- ADEV 400
- ADEV 440
- AGEC 105
- AGEC 350
- AGEC 429
- AGEC 430
- AGEC 452
- AGEC 453
- ANTH 201
- ANTH 210
- ANTH 225
- ANTH 300
- ANTH 314
- ANTH 403

B. U.S. History:
- political scier
- a responsible c
- POLS 206 a
- history, except
- more than 3 h

6. As individual an
- ability to survi
- pluralistic, diver
- to be taken b
- Core Curriculum
- wishes to do so.
- requirement may
- if that course also
2. Without knowledge of mathematics, the language of science; and logic, the art of critical inquiry; it is not possible to understand or participate in the development of knowledge.

Mathematics (6 hours, at least 3 of which must be in mathematics)
To be selected from any mathematics course except:
MATH 102
MATH 103
MATH 150
MATH 360
MATH 366

Also may select 3 hours from:
PHIL 240
PHIL 341
PHIL 342

3. Knowledge and appreciation of science as a significant human activity, rather than merely a listing of results or collection of data, is acquired only by engaging in the activities of science.

Natural Sciences (8 hours) Two or more natural sciences courses which deal with fundamental principles and in which critical evaluation and analysis of data and processes are required. A minimum of one course shall include a corresponding laboratory. Non-technical courses are specifically excluded.

Four hours to be selected from:
BIOL 101
BIOL 107
BIOL 111
BIOL 113/123
CHEM 101
CHEM 103/113
CHEM 107
CHEM 104/114
PHYS 201
PHYS 218
AGRO 105
AGRO 301
AGRO 405
ANTH 225
ATMO 201/202
BESC 201
BIOL 112
BIOL 225
CHEM 102
CHEM 106
CHEM 106/116
CHEM 222/242
CHEM 225
CHEM 301
CHEM 310
CHEM 306/307
GEOG 203/213
HORT 201/202
ENTO 322
FRSC 304
GENE 301
GENE 310
PHYS 202
PHYS 208
PHYS 219
PHYS 306/307
RENR 205/215

Remaining hours to be selected from courses listed and/or:
GEOS 410
OCNG 251/252
PHYS 202
PHYS 208
PHYS 219
PHYS 306/307
RENR 205/215

4. Knowledge of our realization (see no

A. Humanities (3 to
following subject
exclusive of co
native language
AMST 300
AMST 320
ANTH 202
ANTH 203
ANTH 301
ANTH 302
ANTH 303
ANTH 306
ANTH 308
ANTH 313
ANTH 315
ANTH 316
ANTH 317
ANTH 318
ANTH 324
ANTH 350
ANTH 351
ARCH 345
ARCH 430
ARCH 434
ARTS 149
ARTS 150
ARTS 329
ARTS 330
ARTS 335
ARTS 349
ARTS 350
ARTS 445
CLAS 351
COMM 301
COMM 327
COMM 425
* or any course in the
and Cultures (see re
TO: Vatche P. Tchakerian, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Geosciences, and Professor of Geography, and of Geology & Geophysics

FROM: Kurt Ritter, Associate Director, Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships, and Professor of Communication

SUBJECT: Revised Letter Seeking Approval for Listing GEOS 105 as a Course Option in the Proposed Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Degree

December 4, 2007

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval to list GEOS 105 as a course option that could be used in the proposed honors area of concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposal for an honors area of concentration includes GEOS 105—Introduction to Environmental Geoscience (3 credits) as an example of a course that might be selected by a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee to fulfill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Nine courses are cited as examples in the report—one from each of the Colleges offering undergraduate degrees. (Please see page 6 of the attached proposal.)

Enrollment Impact: The impact of the University Studies honors area of concentration on enrollment in GEOS 105 will be small—at most only a few students each year. First, the honors area of concentration is intended for a particular group of honors students: “high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education.” The vast majority of honors students will continue to enroll in traditional majors, as they do now. Second, in the honors area of concentration a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee will have numerous options from which to select a course to fill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Third, students in this area of concentration would only seek enrollment in the course when it is offered in an honors section.

Background: The University is in the process of developing various areas of concentration for the new University Studies undergraduate degree. An undergraduate student accepted in the University Studies degree program must complete an area of concentration (21-24 credits), two minors (15-18 credits each), the University Core Curriculum (43 credits) as well as any prerequisite and/or elective courses. The implementation committee for the University Studies degree authorized the University Honors Program to propose an honors area of concentration.

The Proposal: The attached proposal was initially developed by an honors faculty committee that submitted it to Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser (the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, and a Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, of
Request for Approval to List GEOS 105 as an Option in the Honors Area of Concentration Proposal, page 2

Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences, and of Biotechnology). Professor Funkhouser refined the proposal and submitted it to the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Faculty Senate. That committee includes a faculty representative from each College at the university that offers an undergraduate degree. The Honors Programs Advisory Committee refined the proposal further, approved it, and forwarded it to Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services. Professor Gunn approved the proposal and has forwarded it to the University Curriculum Committee, which is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting on December 13, 2007.

Request: By your signature below, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the listing of GEOS 105 (3 credits) as a course option in the attached proposal. It would be helpful if your response could reach the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships by December 12, 2007. It could be sent as a PDF attachment to an e-mail message to me at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>; it could be sent to me by FAX (845-0300); it could be delivered to me in Room 101 of the Academic Building; or I would be happy to have a representative of the Honors Office pick it up from your office. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 845-0309 or at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>.

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED
(please strike out the word that does not apply)

Signature

12/10/07
December 4, 2007

TO: Donald J. Curtis, Jr., Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts
4223 TAMU

FROM: Kurt Ritter, Associate Director, Office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships

SUBJECT: Seeking Approval for Listing LBAR 181 as a Course Option in the Proposed Honors Area of Concentration in the University Studies Degree

The purpose of this letter is to request your approval to list LBAR 181 as a course option that could be used in the proposed honors area of concentration in the University Studies undergraduate degree.

The proposal for an honors area of concentration includes LBAR 181-Freshman Honors Seminar in the Liberal Arts (1 credit) as an example of a course that might be selected by a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee to fulfill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Nine courses are cited as examples in the report—one from each of the Colleges offering undergraduate degrees. (Please see page 6 of the attached proposal.)

**Enrollment Impact:** The impact of the University Studies honors area of concentration on enrollment in LBAR 181 will be small—at most only a few students each year. First, the honors area of concentration is intended for a particular group of honors students: “high achieving students who are truly generalists and seek a broad, interdisciplinary education.” The vast majority of honors students will continue to enroll in traditional majors, as they do now. Second, in the honors area of concentration a student’s interdisciplinary advisory committee will have numerous options from which to select a course to fill the requirement for a freshman honors interdisciplinary course. Third, students in this area of concentration would only seek enrollment in the course when it is offered in an honors section.

**Background:** The University is in the process of developing various areas of concentration for the new University Studies undergraduate degree. An undergraduate student accepted in the University Studies degree program must complete an area of concentration (21-24 credits), two minors (15-18 credits each), the University Core Curriculum (43 credits) as well as any prerequisite and/or elective courses. The implementation committee for the University Studies degree authorized the University Honors Program to propose an honors area of concentration.

**The Proposal:** The attached proposal was initially developed by an honors faculty committee that submitted it to Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser (the Executive Director of the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships, and a Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, of
Request for Approval to List LBAR 181 as an Option in the Honors Area of Concentration Proposal, page 2

Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences, and of Biotechnology). Professor Funkhouser refined the proposal and submitted it to the Honors Programs Advisory Committee, a reporting committee of the Faculty Senate. That committee includes a faculty representative from each College at the university that offers an undergraduate degree. The Honors Programs Advisory Committee refined the proposal further, approved it, and forwarded it to Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services. Professor Gunn approved the proposal and has forwarded it to the University Curriculum Committee, which is expected to consider the proposal at its meeting on December 14, 2007.

Request: By your signature below, please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the listing of LBAR 181 (1 credit) as a course option in the attached proposal. It would be helpful if your response could reach the Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships by December 13, 2007. It could be sent as a PDF attachment to an e-mail message to me at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>; it could be sent to me by FAX (845-0300); it could be delivered to me in Room 101 of the Academic Building; or I would be happy to have a representative of the Honors Office pick it up from your office. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 845-0309 or at <kurt-ritter@tamu.edu>.

APPROVED/DISAPPROVED
(please strike out the word that does not apply)

[Signature]
12/06/07