7. Change in Curriculum

**College of Liberal Arts**
Department of Psychology
B.A. in Psychology
B.S. in Psychology
March 13, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Curriculum Committee
   Academic Support Services

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

FROM: Dr. Leslie C. Morey, Head
      Department of Psychology

SUBJECT: Reducing Hours from 128 to 120 for the B.A. in Psychology and the B.S. in Psychology

The Director of Undergraduate Studies, the director of departmental advising, and I met recently to address the mandate of the state legislature to reduce the number of credit hours for our majors from 128 to 120. We find no compelling reason to retain the number of hours at 128. Therefore, to accommodate this mandate, we recommend that the Department of Psychology reduce the number of elective hours by 8 for both undergraduate degrees (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science) 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. At present, we require no minor, and thus students typically have 23-28 elective hours, depending upon their degree option (B.S. or B.A.). Thus, while reducing these elective hours may discourage our majors from pursuing minors in certain disciplines, we felt that the most viable option was to reduce the number of elective hours available to majors.