Resolution #5 1992-93

TO: President John E. Van de Watering
FROM: The Faculty Senate (Meeting on 12-14-92)
RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Action Determination)
     II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
     III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)
     For your information

SUBJECT: Three Credit Hour Increase for REL 403: Practicum

Signed [Signature] Date Sent 12-18-92
(For the Senate)

TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: President John E. Van de Watering
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution
   a. Accepted. Effective Date Jan. 93
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III.
   a. Received and acknowledged
   b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: See Attached List:
               [Contract Faculty Senate for full resolution]

Distribution Date 11/93 Signed [Signature] (President of the College)
December 4, 1992

TO: Dr. S. Dicker, Chairperson
   Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

FR: Dr. D. Jewell, Coordinator
    Field Placement

RE: Rationale for 3 cr. hr. Increase for REL 463: Practicum

As a follow-up to my meeting with the Committee on Tuesday, December 1
I would like to reiterate the rationale for increasing the credit earned
for REL 405: Practicum from 12 to 15 hours.

First of all, 15+ hours or 1 credit hour/week of full-time placement
in the "state of the art." To support this contention I am attaching
a copy of the results of a recent survey I conducted of 11 nationally
accredited programs. I wish to point out that SUNY Cortland, our major
"competition" for students, requires at least one credit hour internship or
practicum or 1 credit hour for each week of full-time placement. Also,
Temple, perhaps the "premier" program of the North Atlantic region, requires
a 15 credit hour internship for a 15 week full-time placement. Finally,
when discussing the credit-bearing issue with Dr. Kiley at Vermont's
Green Mountain College he stated that the only reason it is capped at 12
hours is to control the cost to students. You will note, however, that
they give 1 credit hour for each week of required full-time placement.
As you will recall, your committee was provided with supporting
documentation.

Another reason, one related to the aforementioned, is the increase will
make our students more competitive or attractive with respect to agency
selection. The agency supervisor will spend substantial time training
and orienting the student selected. Therefore, a student making a
15 week commitment is far more attractive than one making only one of
12 weeks. A number of our students have been rejected by leading agencies
for this reason alone.

A number of states (California, for example) are requiring the 15 week/500
hour clinical practicum before awarding professional certification in
therapeutic recreation. Last year 3 of our students interned in California
and were required to extend for 3 weeks in order to be eligible for
certification and employment with the state mental health and developmental
disabilities agency.

Scope of opportunity is another concern. An increasing number of agencies
(resorts, municipalities, rehabilitation centers, V.A. centers, etc.)
are now requiring students to be on-site a minimum of 15 weeks. This is
another element of the competitiveness issue.

Accredited by the NRPA/AALRCouncil on Accreditation.
Dicker, pg. 2

The students will also be required, as they are now, to fulfill a number of course requirements. The four major writing assignments will be more comprehensive; their learning/placement goals and objectives will be more extensive; and their leadership and programming responsibilities will be increased.

Finally, in addition to the aforementioned concerns, I would like to assure the Faculty Senate that the requested increase will not result in any of the following:

* the student being required to take an additional course,
* the student being enrolled for a lengthier period,
* the student having to pay additional tuition,
* the need for additional faculty resources,
* any negative impact on other academic units, or
* more than 54 credit hours of required EEL courses.

Given the justifications for the increase and the assurances offered it is our hope that the Faculty Senate will act favorably upon our request.

Thank you.

copies: Dr. M. Harter, Dean
Dr. J. Balog, Chair
Dr. A. Rancourt, Coordinator
EEL Faculty
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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Length of Practicum</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>Central Michigan</td>
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<td>Indiana University</td>
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