Resolution #19
2002-2003
FACULTY SENATE

TO: Dr. Paul Yu, College President
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: April 21, 2003
RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
II. Recommendation (Urging the Fitness of)
III. Other, For Your Information (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)
SUBJ: Update the Math Prerequisite Requirements for the Business Administration Major
Signed: [Signature]
Date: 4/24/03

TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: Dr. Paul Yu, College President
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle)
   a. Accepted. Effective Date: __/__/____
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on __/__/____
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation
II. III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI
   a. Received and acknowledged
   b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION TO: Presidents Staff and Deans
Distribution Date: 5-6-03
Signed: [Signature]
Date: 5-5-03

(Dr. Paul Yu, President, SUNY College at Brockport)
E) Update the math prerequisite requirement of the Business administration major.

Implementation Date: Fall 2003.

Primary Motivation: Comprehensive five-year curriculum review, review of MBA program entrance requirements, student success.

Students Affected: Students earning a degree in Business Administration or Accounting, entering Fall 2003 and beyond.

Description of Change: Restrict the list of courses satisfying the math prerequisite requirement for the business administration. Currently, students may satisfy the prerequisite math requirement by taking MTH201 (Calculus), MTH221 (Business Calculus) or MTH245 (Finite Math). Proposed is to restrict the courses satisfying this requirement to MTH201 or MTH221.

Discussion: Our curriculum committee recently conducted a comprehensive review of the prerequisite, co-requisite, and core curriculum of our degree programs. Based on their review, the Committee recommended updating the math prerequisite to:

1) Be more consistent with the curricula of other business programs. A competitive analysis of other business programs (generally recognized to be excellent) indicates that use of MTH245 (finite math) is atypical.

2) Be more consistent with the expectations of graduate (MBA) programs in business. A majority of MBA programs reviewed had an expectation of calculus or business calculus at the undergraduate level. Students without a calculus background are required to take a graduate-level business calculus course, either prior to program entrance or as part of their first year MBA curriculum. Our program has established strategic goals that include 1) increasing the number of graduates that attend graduate school, and 2) increasing the opportunities for our students to participate in time-shortened MBA programs. This change is consistent with our strategic goals.

3) To promote consistency in the preparatory math backgrounds of our students. The dichotomy in existing student backgrounds (some have calc, some don’t) preclude any calculus-based development of quantitative business topics, e.g. cost curve minima, finding areas under probability density functions, etc.

The proposed change was reviewed favorably by the AACSB visitation team that recently evaluated our programs.

Resources: The proposed change has no impact on our Department’s resources, since the math department teaches the course. The math Department will need to teach more sections of (business) calculus and fewer sections of finite math to accommodate the change. A supporting letter from the Chair of the Math Department appears in Appendix F.