

As faculty and administrative leadership of the Haslam College of Business, we would like to address the proposed resolution given that Haslam College is specifically referenced in it.

Curricular decisions of the Haslam College faculty are consistently made in terms of what the faculty believe is in the best interest of the educational experiences of Haslam College students and in preparing these students for productive careers in their chosen field of study. We believe, and assume, that concern for the best interest of student educational experiences drives curricular decisions campus wide.

In considering how to best transition from the former general education structure to the new Vol Core structure, HCB faculty sought a curricular structure that would be supportive of the spirit of Vol Core and in the best interest of the educational experiences of Haslam College students. HCB faculty came to realize that under the proposed Vol Core structure, continuing to require intermediate foreign language would mean that HCB students would need, in most cases, three to nine student credit hours of prerequisites in order to satisfy the GCI requirement since only the second intermediate foreign language course was approved for GCI and many HCB students need to start their foreign language education at the elementary level. Meeting these needed prerequisites would consequently use up a significant portion of any “free elective” opportunities that business students have in their programs of study. In light of this, HCB faculty decided to adopt Vol Core as presented and approved by the campus, and not specifically require foreign language. By doing so, HCB faculty felt that HCB students were best served with access to more options to fulfill the GCI requirement.

HCB faculty recognize the value of foreign language study and it remains an option for business students to fulfill GCI. This option continues to be included and encouraged in academic advising sessions with HCB students. Note also that HCB faculty include the requirement for nine hours of upper division foreign language in the college’s International Business major where it is quite obviously critically important.

Furthermore, it should be recognized that Haslam did not replace the six hours of foreign language that had been specified in the previous Cultures and Civilizations requirement with six hours of business content. Rather, HCB faculty adopted Vol Core in such a way that would keep those six hours on the UTK campus, mostly in the College of Arts & Sciences. In this regard, note that in addition to being cognizant of the constraints put on students by the new Course Program of Study (CPOS), Haslam College faculty were also aware that some 42% of HCB students, at last count, took their 200 level language courses at another institution, costing the UTK campus \$1.4 million. In light of this, the HCB faculty decision to adopt Vol Core as presented and approved by the campus quite possibly returns student credit hours to the UTK campus that otherwise would go elsewhere..

Please permit us a couple of additional observations. The resolution raises a concern about the stated lack of financial impact in the curricular proposal with reference to the BAM model. From the perspective of a unit outside of the College of Arts and Sciences, HCB faculty have no way of knowing how the revenue that goes to another college will be used. From an HCB faculty perspective, the revenue from the GCI courses, which are largely Arts and Sciences courses, continues to go to that college, especially after considering the likely return of credit hours to the UTK campus mentioned earlier. It is for that reason that the action was characterized as likely having little to no financial impact at a college level.

Another concern raised in the resolution is that there was not an appropriate amount of discussion about the impact of our decision. However, Vice Provost RJ Hinde brought the colleges together last year to discuss ways to provide transparency in the curricular proposal process, and it was agreed to post proposals on the Provost's website. The HCB proposal was posted and visible to the entire campus community for two months prior to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee's vote. During that two months, the Haslam College of Business did not receive any questions or concerns about the curriculum revision. In principle, we agree that continued discussion about the university's curriculum proposal process should take place.

Finally, in the revision of General Education, there were proposals from other academic units, too, from across the campus that revised foreign language, as well as other requirements including courses that were offered by the Haslam College. Given that, we do not feel that it's appropriate to single out Haslam in this resolution.

In summary, we believe that the adoption of Vol Core was an appropriate time for the faculty of all colleges to re-assess the curricular structure of their academic degree programs. In such times, it is the right of faculty in each college to determine the best curriculum for their students. As presented, the resolution appears to seek to restrict that right. The resolution appears to potentially put curricular changes that have been approved by one college's faculty in the hands of a single department in a different college who object to the changes on the grounds that they stand to lose enrollment as a result of the change. Is that really the direction in which UTK faculty would like to move our institution?

Thank you for your time and attention.