



University of Washington  
FACULTY SENATE  
Box 351271

Class B Bulletin No. 179

Mailed May 3, 2013

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**GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

At its meeting of April 25, 2013, the Faculty Senate approved Class B legislation to amend Chapter 114 of Scholastic Regulations to create a **Diversity Graduation Requirement for Undergraduates**. President Michael Young has also approved the proposed legislation. The faculty is now being given the opportunity to submit written objections to its substantive nature, under the *Faculty Code*, Chapter 22, [Section 22-74](#) Senate Procedure: Class B Actions.

**To provide a written objection, and call for Senate Executive Committee reconsideration of the matter, you must object in writing by accessing the catalyst survey (<https://catalyst.uw.edu/webq/survey/secfac/200930>) by Friday, May 24, 2013. A copy of the proposed legislation is below.**

**BACKGROUND**

Diversity is one of the University of Washington's six stated values. Creating a diversity requirement for undergraduate students will further align the University's values and curriculum. The requirement is meant to help students develop an understanding of the complexities of living in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world. The University of Washington must prepare students for the new demands and expectations that they will encounter as successful graduates.

This idea has been discussed by the faculty periodically for the past 25 years, and past proposals have encountered resistance from the faculty. Previous proposals encountered resistance to a diversity requirement for a variety of reasons, including debate on the definition of diversity, the number of credits required, and a concern that there might not be enough places available in existing courses that would satisfy such a requirement. This Class B legislation addresses the concerns raised by prior proposals. It requires 3 credits of coursework that can simultaneously satisfy other Area of Knowledge requirements, thus not adding to general education requirements. It employs a broad definition of diversity. The faculty of each school, college, and campus will recommend and approve courses to meet the requirement. Existing courses in most all departments, schools, and campuses will fulfill the requirement, and a Provost's diversity task force estimates that two-thirds of graduating seniors already meet the requirement.

The current proposal originated from a coalition of students, is supported by the ASUW, and has been discussed and worked on by the Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs, the Faculty Council on Women in Academia, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Faculty Senate.. No objections to the overall proposal for a diversity requirement have been voiced; Debate among these groups has focused primarily on the examples of diversity categories and course foci stated in the legislation; note these are examples only, and are not meant to be restrictive or complete. If approved, the requirement would likely be implemented in Fall 2014.

The legislation has been approved by the Faculty Senate by a substantial majority vote and approved by the University President.

**REMEMBER: THE DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN OBJECTION IS May 24, 2013**  
**Proposed Changes Related to Student Governance and Policies, Scholastic Regulations**  
**Chapter 114, Degrees, Graduation, and Commencement**

2. Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

A. Required Grade Point

To be eligible for the bachelor's degree, an undergraduate student must achieve a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.00. Only resident credits and credits from DL courses will be used to compute the graduation grade-point average.

B. Required Credits

To be eligible for graduation from the University with the Bachelor's degree, a student shall satisfy all other specific requirements and shall offer a minimum of 180 academic credits.

1. The requirements for graduation shall include:

- a. No fewer than 40 credits of general education courses approved by the appropriate school or college, including no fewer than 10 credits in each of three areas of study: The Natural World, Individuals and Societies, and The Visual, Literary, and Performing Arts;
  - b. No fewer than 12 credits of writing consisting of 5 credits of English Composition and two additional writing-intensive courses (the latter may be satisfied through several options: "W" courses, senior seminars, senior thesis, or courses for which students and faculty contract for a substantial amount of writing);
  - c. No fewer than 5 credits of courses devoted to reasoning skills (courses to fulfill this requirement include quantitative, symbolic, or formal reasoning which may be satisfied within the discipline).
  - d. No fewer than 3 credits of courses, approved by the appropriate school or college, which focus on the sociocultural, political, and economic diversity of human experience at local, regional, or global scales. This requirement is meant to help the student develop an understanding of the complexities of living in increasingly diverse and interconnected societies. Courses focus on cross-cultural analysis and communication; and historical and contemporary inequities such as those associated with race, ethnicity, class, sex and gender, sexual orientation, nationality, ability, religion, creed, age, or socioeconomic status. Course activities should encourage thinking critically on topics such as power, inequality, marginality, and social movements, and effective communication across cultural differences.
2. Courses taken to fulfill the writing, reasoning, diversity, and major requirements may apply as appropriate to the general education requirements.

*Approved by:*  
Senate Executive Committee  
April 8, 2013

*Approved by:*  
Faculty Senate  
April 25, 2013



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

*Michael K. Young*  
*President*

April 29, 2013

Professor Marcia G. Killien  
Secretary of the Faculty  
Box 351271

Dear Dr. Killien:

I have reviewed the Class B Legislation proposed by the Faculty Senate on April 25, 2013, which would amend Chapter 114 of Scholastic Regulations to create a diversity graduation requirement for undergraduates. I approve the proposed legislation for consideration by the faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael K. Young'.

Michael K. Young

cc: James Gregory, Chair, Faculty Senate  
Ana Mari Cauce, Provost  
Jack Johnson, Chief of Staff  
Rebecca Deardorff, Director of Rules Coordination



June 13, 2013

Michael Young, President  
Office of the President  
Box 351230

SUBJECT: Class B Legislation 179: Diversity graduation requirement for undergraduates

Dear President Young:

This is to inform you that the attached legislation amending Chapter 114 of Scholastic Regulations to create a diversity graduation requirement for undergraduates went into effect on May 24, 2013. There were 21 objections to this legislation. Objections from five percent of the voting faculty would have sent this legislation back to the Senate for further consideration. Our office is now working with the Provost's office on implementation planning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia Killien". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marcia Killien  
Secretary of the Faculty

cc: Jack Johnson, Chief of Staff  
James Gregory, Chair, Faculty Senate  
Jennifer Johnston, Special Assistant to the President  
Rebecca Deardorff, Rules Coordination