

March 2, 2001
Undergraduate Affairs Committee

Members Present: Baym, Evans, Gorvett, Laugesen, Miles, Palmore, Weichsel

Members Absent: Bennett, Murphy, Sowers, Tolman

Also Present: Randy McCarthy, Karen Mortensen

Mortensen and McCarthy presented a proposal to create a new course, Math 248, which would cover the material of Math 247 with an additional writing component. Credit in Math 248 would enable a student to satisfy the Composition II general education requirement. The purpose of the Composition II requirement is to develop the ability to write effectively in a particular discipline. Currently the mathematics department offers no courses carrying Composition II credit. The department previously submitted an unsuccessful proposal that Math 247 be designated a Composition II course. A spirited debate ensued touching on, among other topics, the nature of the writing that would be required in Math 248 and whether it would be of the sort appropriate for Composition II credit, and whether Math 306 would be a more appropriate course for the department to propose for this purpose. It was decided that Mortensen and McCarthy would prepare a brief document for UAC stating the rationale for creating Math 248, including sample writing assignments as well as a description of Composition II requirements.

Miles reported that a small group on Math 120 lecturers had held discussions about the significant proportion of unsuccessful students in Math 120. Based on surveys concerning the background of Math 120 students taken in the fall of 1999 and 2000, a proposal was developed by Margit Messmer to create a two semester alternative to Math 120. Miles asked whether there was sufficient interest in UAC that more detailed discussions of the development of such courses should proceed. A brief discussion led to no consensus to go forward with such a proposal.

Submitted by:
Joe Miles, Secretary, UAC