To: Faculty Senate

From: Mary Harden, Academic Requirements Committee Chair

Date: April 20, 2011

Re: **Update of Credit Limitations for Open-Ended Course Sets**

The Academic Requirement Committee recommends the following changes to the credit limitations of Open-Ended Course Sets listed in BA, BS, BFA and BM undergraduate requirements (page 37 of current catalog):

* Remove 407 from course set (406,407,408) and create a separate set for 407.
* Raise credit limitation total to 16 for course sets (403), (406,408) (407), (409).

Objectives:

1. To align course limitations with the increased numbers of 4-credit courses.

2. To allow students in Majors that require a 12 hour practicum to fulfill a 4 credit practicum in their Minor.

3. To expand opportunities for students to take seminars.

The current policy was designed to accommodate four 3-credit courses. With the increase in 4-credit course offerings, the number of open-ended classes has been reduced to 3. Raising the credit limitations would correct the discrepancy.

Increasing workshop, seminar and practicum credit limits would allow students to enhance their majors with minor offerings.

Several departments in a variety of divisions offer seminars under the 407 designation. Each seminar is a distinctly different course but students are limited to 12 credits in the current course set of (406,407,408). Creating a new course set for 407 would enable students to take 16 credits of varying seminar courses.

409 is a practicum designation. Students who are required to take 12 practicum credits in their major are unable to take additional 409 practicum courses in their minors. Expanding the credit limit would enhance their education and preparation for future careers.