

Oral Roberts University Faculty Senate

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

GC 4112 (2:00 p.m.)

Agenda

Prayer

Approval of the minutes:

http://www.oru.edu/faculty_and_staff/faculty/governance/docs/faculty_senate_minutes_032315.pdf

Old Business

Proposal from Communication Arts to allow the Debate class to substitute for Oral Communications (just for Communication majors)---General Education Committee (Lori Kanitz)

New Business

B.A. and B.S. proposals---General Education Committee (Lori Kanitz)

The Provost

What differentiates a Bachelor of Arts Degree from a Bachelor of Science?

There is no specific definition or list of specific courses for a B.A. or B.S. However, it is the major or subject area that helps determine whether the course of study results in a B.A. or a B.S. degree. Generally speaking, the following bullet points serve as indicators of each degree.

- A B.A. is not necessarily for a humanities major, can also apply to a science major.
- Usually a B.A. curriculum includes more courses in other disciplines outside the major.
- a B.S. degree “without exception, indicates either a science major or a vocational major such as nursing, engineering, or business management.” Also technical fields such as computer science, math, and physics.
- “The analytical and technical skills [in] a BS degree ... aid ... in a career as a scientist or statistician.”
- The science and math in a B.S. degree “enhance a career as an architect or geologist.”
- a B.A. is usually in a field such as art, music, languages, and communication.
- a B.S. often has a higher number of courses in the major as students focus “their academic energies on mastering the technical and practical facets of their field.”
- “Some subjects like psychology, accounting and business are regularly offered in both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree programs. In this case, students can choose whether they prefer the broader sweep of the Bachelor of Arts track or the more tightly focused approach of the Bachelor of Science track. It is a choice more students are being offered. The *Minnesota Daily* notes that even hard science degrees are now being presented in both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science tracks by some universities.”

<http://www.universitylanguage.com/guides/ba-bs-degree/>

<http://www.bestvalueschools.com/faq/what-is-the-difference-between-a-b-a-and-a-b-s/>

A comparison of nine fields of study in eight CCCU schools*

	History	Comm	Christian Ministry	Psych	HPE	P.R.	ART Design	Cinema Theatre	Global Studies
Abilene	B.A.	B.A. B.S.	B.A.	B.S.	----	B.S.	B.F.A. B.A.	B.F.A.	B.A.
Azusa Pacific	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A. B.S.	----	B.A.	B.A. B.F.A.	B.A.
Biola	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.S.	B.A.	B.S. B.F.A.	B.A.	B.A.
Concordia	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	----	----	B.A.	----	B.A.
East TX Baptist	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A. B.S.	B.S.	----	----	B.A.	----
Lipscomb	B.A.	----	M.A.	B.A. B.S.	B.S.	B.A.	B.A. B.F.A.	B.A. B.F.A.	----
OBU	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	B.S.	----	B.A.	B.A.	B.A.
Pepperdine		B.A.	B.A.	B.A.	----	B.A.	----	B.A.	B.A.

*Information gathered from the websites of the respective universities.

Proposal regarding the B.A. and B.S. degrees at ORU

Proposal #1: To use a commonly accepted definition of what constitutes a Bachelor of Arts (humanities, religion, art, music, history, languages, government, education, and communication) and a Bachelor of Science degree (mathematics, computer science, “hard sciences,” health sciences). B.S.W., B.Mu., B.N., and other bachelor’s degrees are generally more specific but should also have definitions.

Rationale: Based on research, such as seen on the accompanying pages, this would put ORU in line with other colleges and universities.

Proposal #2: To discontinue the current policy (see below) of allowing any B.A. degree be changed to a B.S. degree and vice versa and replace it with a set B.A. or B.S. degree connected to each major at ORU. Some specific majors (e.g., psychology) may have two tracks: B.A. or B.S.

Rationale: Based on research, such as seen on the accompanying pages, this would put ORU in line with other colleges and universities.

Current ORU policy

“The bachelor of arts curriculum may be redesigned into a bachelor of science degree in any major by including two additional courses in mathematics and/or laboratory science in place of the modern foreign language requirement as determined by the major department. A bachelor of science curriculum may be redesigned into a bachelor of arts degree in any major by including two modern language courses, reaching a proficiency of at least the 203 level. In each case, a Petition for Policy Exception must be submitted.” (ORU 2014-2015 Catalog, p. 29)

Resources

General education requirement vary.

- <http://chronicle.com/blogs/brainstorm/the-state-of-general-education/7899>
- <http://chronicle.com/blogs/next/2013/06/23/rethinking-the-bachelors-degree-to-bolster-the-humanities/>

BA/BS

The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major and Liberal Education by The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, AACU article from 2009

“Respondents saw no meaningful difference between BA and BS graduates, although there was a slight preference for the latter since these students have usually taken more science courses. In either case, electives should complement the major. All saw value in a broad liberal education that teaches tolerance, acceptance, and challenge; these are important characteristics needed for success in an industrial research and development environment. A liberal education also hones writing, general communication, and creative thinking skills. Further, it avoids the dangers of overspecialization.”

<https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/biochemistry-and-molecular-biology-major-and-liberal-education>

Differences between B.A. and B.S. degrees

Gen info

- <http://www.universitylanguage.com/guides/ba-bs-degree/>
- <http://www.bestvalueschools.com/faq/what-is-the-difference-between-a-b-a-and-a-b-s/>

Particular Schools

Cal Poly

<http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/content/academicpolicies/policies-undergrad/ba-bs-difference>

Calvin College

<http://www.calvin.edu/academics/majors-minors/?keyword=bachelor%20of%20science&display=all>

<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/services/catalog/>

Colorado—Boulder

<http://www.colorado.edu/cs/undergraduates/difference-between-ba-and-bs-degrees>

Kansas

<http://advising.ku.edu/babsbgs>

Yale College at Yale University requires language for all students

<http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/requirements-for-ba-bs-degree/>

Azusa Pacific

http://www.apu.edu/programs/?subcategory=bachelors_degree

Particular Majors

BA vs BS in Psychology

<http://psychology.about.com/od/education/f/ba-vs-bs.htm>

BA vs BS vs BGS in which majors at KU

<http://clas.ku.edu/academics/degrees#>

BA vs BS in Business

<http://classroom.synonym.com/difference-between-bs-ba-degree-business-5380.html>

BA vs BS in Biology

<http://classroom.synonym.com/difference-between-bs-ba-degree-business-5380.html>

BA vs BS in which major at Azusa Pacific <http://www.college.columbia.edu/core/classes/fl.php>

http://www.apu.edu/programs/?subcategory=bachelors_degree

Foreign Languages Experience

<http://www.college.columbia.edu/core/classes/fl.php>