

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5.I**

**DATE: June 10, 2011**

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**SUBJECT: Prerequisites and Unique Course Matches**

Currently, the system [Common Course Guidelines](#) state that “Common courses shall have common CIP codes, prefixes, course numbers, course titles, course descriptions, and prerequisite requirements.” However, over the past few AAC meetings a number of common course requests have emerged from institutions that seek to change the prerequisites or co-requisites at the institutional level only. As required, institutions are reaching out to other campuses offering the common course to inquire about any issues they have with moving forward with the request. Without a requirement in place that prerequisites or co-requisites truly be common across the system (while the standard has been to keep these as consistent as possible), the ability to maintain our common course catalog structure can slowly be compromised over time.

On a related issue, a number of requests have also come forward that seek to offer a unique course that have a legitimate counterpart at another institution. When asked to evaluate those courses that appear to be common, institutional responses routinely note unique approaches or different prefixes as an argument despite considerable similarity in descriptions, instructional methods, or prerequisites. This issue also has potential longer term implications when working to maintain the system common course catalog structure, and AAC representatives should be prepared to discuss approaches for better addressing these issues within the current curriculum review cycle. Additional guidance (prerequisite waivers) or curriculum requirements (inserting a section that speaks to close matches on the new course request) may be necessary to ensure transferability for students when equivalencies are reviewed.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Discussion and Recommendation.