

RE: Changes in academic policies and procedures - 12/5/19**Patterson, Rubin** <rubin.patterson@howard.edu>

Thu 12/5/2019 11:41 AM

To: Wutoh, Anthony K. <awutoh@Howard.edu>; Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>**Cc:** Frederick, Wayne <HUPresident@Howard.edu>; Prioleau, Florence W <fprioleau@howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; jeanbaileyphd@aol.com <jeanbaileyphd@aol.com>

Good Morning,

In my capacity as Dean, I proposed that we correct our course numbering system in COAS to reflect the content's academic level. In such a system, for instance, a 100 series would reflect freshman-level courses without prerequisites while a 400 series would reflect senior-level courses. Although determining differences in academic rigor and expectations between courses such as the 200s versus 300s is not always precise, approximate calibrations between course numbers and content can occur.

In no way would changing course numbers affect the title or the content of the course. As the Provost mentioned, the proposed course number arrangement would be more in line with other universities. The proposed change would also be of assistance to our students when other institutions review their transcripts. Courses with numbers such as 001 may be perceived as remedial, while undergraduate course numbers in the 500s, 600s, or 700s may mistakenly suggest they are graduate level.

Again, I stress that the course titles and academic content, which were rightfully all determined exclusively by academics, would not be altered in any fashion. Furthermore, academics would suggest the new course numbers. We only suggest that an effort be made to assign numbers to courses that reflect the level of academic content. In many instances, the courses in our inventories were randomly assigned over the decades without an effort to calibrate course number with level of course content and student progress within a degree program. The benefits of the change would primarily accrue to students.

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From: Wutoh, Anthony K. <awutoh@Howard.edu>**Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2019 10:48 AM**To:** Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>**Cc:** Frederick, Wayne <HUPresident@Howard.edu>; Prioleau, Florence W <fprioleau@howard.edu>; Paschall, Samuel <spaschall@Howard.edu>; Kelly, Lynne J. <ljkelly@Howard.edu>; jeanbaileyphd@aol.com; Patterson, Rubin <rubin.patterson@howard.edu>**Subject:** RE: Changes in academic policies and procedures - 12/5/19

Dr. Alfred,

It appears that there has been some internal discussion in the College of Arts and Sciences among faculty and College administrators regarding nomenclature of courses based upon the level of the content (i.e. freshmen courses 100 level, etc.). This has not been a policy matter at the University Administration, nor does it appear that there has been adoption of any proposed changes. To note, courses and course numbers are proposed at the Department level, submitted through the Office of the Dean to the Registrar's office.

While the proposed change you cite below seems to make sense, and is consistent with other academic institutions, I have cc'ed Dean Patterson to provide any additional insight regarding this inquiry. I am not aware of the previous discussion. Thank you.

AKW



Anthony Wutoh, Ph.D., R.Ph.
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Dr. Wutoh,

A department chair mentioned that classes will change their designations. For example, I'm teaching Physics for Scientists and Engineers 1 - PHYS 013. Apparently this class will now be changed to (just as an example) PHYS 113 or something similar. If I'm not mistaken, it was mentioned that all freshman level courses will have a 100 number, sophomore level courses will have a 200 number, etc.

I hope this helps,

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Dr. Alfred,

Good morning, I am in receipt of your email. I have no idea what this is in reference to. Can you provide any additional information regarding this inquiry? Thank you.

AKW



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Good morning,

A departmental chair announced yesterday that the university will be changing how classes are designated.

Per the FS constitution, Article XI, Section C, 8, shouldn't the faculty senate be sought for input before the adoption of a new policy change impacting academics?

I've cc'd the FS officers and the Chair of the relevant FS committee.

Respectfully,

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