**An Approach to Addressing Programs with More than the Maximum Number of Allowed Credit Hours**

Whereas the Faculty Handbook Section 13.02.04 specifies permitted ranges for the number of credit hours required in a major as follows:

“In degree programs that include a major of 27 to 45 hours, a minor, second major, concentration, or other approved program is specified by the appropriate college or department.  In degree programs that do not require a minor or second major, 46-64 hours are required in the major, including any concentrations, emphases, or specialization options that may be part of the major.”

And Section 13.02.09 states:

“Unless a program has been specifically exempted, each degree plan includes a minimum of 12 hours of general (free) electives. “

Whereas there are multiple programs that require more than the maximum allowed hours in the abovementioned range;

Whereas there are extenuating circumstances (such as accreditation requirements) that warrant increasing the size of a program beyond the maximum allowed credit hours;

Whereas the faculty in these programs, as well as external peers, are the best suited to judge the appropriateness of a curriculum and its size;

Whereas each program must undergo a comprehensive self-study and external review every five years as part of the university assessment (see <http://www.wcu.edu/12880.asp> for details);

Be it resolved that an item will be added to the program review self-study that requires a comparison of Western’s program undergoing review to similar/competing programs at other institutions. This comparison should include the specification of program requirements at other institutions and should address any discrepancies between the WCU program and the programs of these peer institutions.