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(email electronic copy to [fysenat@uaf.edu](mailto:fysenat@uaf.edu))

**DELETION OF PROGRAM REQUEST**

(UA Regulation 10.04.02)

**I. Cover Memorandum should include:**

**A. Name of person preparing report:** Carol Barnhardt, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Elementary Teacher Education

**B. Reasons for Requesting deletion of program**

- There is another UAF degree option for students who are interested in an interdisciplinary degree. This is the General Studies Interdisciplinary degree
- The numbers of students interested in the BAS degree, since the General Studies Interdisciplinary option became available, has decreased significantly. There are currently only 2 students who have declared the BAS as their major.
- The original reason for developing the degree no longer exists. The BAS was designed to serve as the undergraduate degree appropriate for students who planned to be elementary teachers but no longer had the option to pursue this degree as an undergraduate student — only through a post-baccalaureate “5<sup>th</sup> year” option when the UA Board of Regents made the decision to eliminate the undergraduate route for seeking a degree and license in elementary education in 1999. This decision was reversed by the Regents the following year. Many students were caught in the middle of the B.Ed. or BAS degree when the changes occurred. We kept the degree option open primarily for a very few number of student athletes who knew they wanted to be elementary teachers but who could not do this as an undergraduate because of their athletic training and travel schedules. They planned to complete their licensure requirements as a post-baccalaureate student — but usually at another institution.

**C. Relation of program to other programs in the local unit and system**

**Summarize the effects of the program deletion. For example, will deletion of the program cause other programs to have to alter their requirements as they utilize courses offered by the elected program.**

- There is no discernable or consequential effect of the program deletion. Students who are interested in becoming elementary teachers, but who are not able to complete the internship year requirements because of participation in a varsity level sport, are now able to complete all of the same content courses, along with an education minor, as a student in the General Studies Interdisciplinary degree. No one will be disadvantaged because of the deletion of this degree since there is an appropriate substitute degree available.
- Students will no longer need to petition to waive the LAS 410W, O/2 “Scientific Research Class. This has not been offered the past few years because there were so few students who needed it.

**D. Summarize effects on personnel directly involved**

- Only two School of Education people have been directly involved in the BAS degree (i.e., advising students and completing required reports relative to the BAS): Carol Barnhardt in her role as Chair of the Department of Elementary Teacher Education and Jann Laiti in her role as Academic Advisor for students in Elementary Education, including those in the BAS degree.

**E. Summarize effects deletion of program will have on budget of department**

- There will be no impact on the budget of the School of Education other than to minimally decrease the amount of time that Carol Barnhardt and Jann Laiti spend on working with

the very small number of BAS students and on writing up annual reports on the BAS degree. Since we have not had sufficient numbers of students to justify offering the LAS

- F. Provide information on current student enrollment in program or courses**  
**If the program currently has declared majors, supply provisions for phasing out program. Provide information on transfer possibilities within the system, if any.**

**II. Background Information**

**A copy of the original instructional program request, if available, or equivalent information should be submitted.**

**If no formal presentation of program approval was made, the following information should be submitted:**

**1. Identification of Program: Should include a brief description of the program and its goals**

The Bachelor of Art and Sciences (BAS) degree program was designed to provide instruction to future elementary teachers in the subject areas encompassed in Alaska teacher content and performance standards: English/language arts, mathematics, science, geography, government and citizenship, history, skills for a healthy life, arts, world languages and technology.

The BAS degree is a broad-based major, concentrating on key principles and content knowledge in mathematics and science, the social sciences, humanities and fine arts. Students in the BAS degree are advised by the School of Education. BAS majors may choose any approved minor. Students who are interested in being teachers are encouraged to choose the education minor

***FROM: Documentation Submitted to Provost Reichardt and UA Board of Regents by Dr. Carol Barnhardt, Spring 2006***

**PROGRESS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUATION OF BAS DEGREE**

**MAU: University of Alaska Fairbanks**  
**Program Title: Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (B.A.S.)**

**B.A.S. Degree**

*Minimum Requirements for Degree: 120 credits*

The B.A.S. program, housed in the School of Education, is a broad-based, interdisciplinary major, concentrating on key principles and content knowledge in social sciences, mathematics, humanities, and sciences. The degree provides opportunities for students to examine issues related to the ten Alaska student content areas: English/language arts, mathematics, science, geography, government and citizenship, history, skills for a healthy life, arts, world languages, and technology. It serves two purposes: a broad-based "liberal arts" degree, and content area preparation for prospective elementary level teachers who plan to achieve certification or licensure through a post-baccalaureate program. B.A.S. majors may choose any approved minor, but students who are interested in being teachers are encouraged to choose the education minor.

**Recommendation**

The following actions, relative to the BAS degree requirements, have been taken since the last report was prepared for the Board of Regents.

1. A capstone course, LAS 410W,O/2 "Scientific Research" has been developed and is currently being offered (Spring of 2006). Frequency of offering of the course will be determined by the number of BAS majors. The course requires that students complete a capstone project. (See attached LAS 4120W,O/2 syllabus for Spring 2006).
2. A formal request will be submitted to the Curriculum Review committee of the UAF Faculty Senate to require all BAS majors to enroll in JRN/ED 486 "Media Literacy." This course will replace the previous requirement that BAS majors complete either LAS 420W,O/2 "Social Science Inquiry and Research" or LAS 430W,O/2 "Language Arts and the Humanities: Creative Activities and Research." A request will be made to remove these two LAS courses from UAF course offerings (see attached forms for these program changes). BAS majors enrolled in JRN/ED 486 will be required to choose the "BAS Capstone Project" in order to successfully complete the course (this is one of three final project options available for students enrolled in this course). Effective January 2007.
3. Students will be required to demonstrate technology competence by successfully challenging each of the four ED 237 modules (.5 credit each) or by enrolling in those modules that they are not able to successfully challenge. The four modules include: (a) Operating systems of MAC OS and Windows; (b) Microsoft Word; (c) PowerPoint and Inspiration; and (d) Excel. (See attached forms). Effective January, 2007.
4. BAS students will be required to have Alaska passing scores on the Praxis I and the Praxis II exams. These are two national exams prepared by Educational Testing Services/ETC. Praxis I assesses reading, writing and math. Praxis II "Standardized Content Knowledge" assesses broad knowledge and background in English/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Sciences.

### **Background**

The Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree was designed in 1999 to respond to the need for an undergraduate degree that would provide the content area necessary for students who wanted to become elementary teachers. Preparation of a new interdisciplinary degree was necessary because the University of Alaska Board of Regents made the decision to suspend admission to the Bachelor of Education Degree. This decision became effective in 1999. This action resulted in the elimination of the option for students to pursue an elementary teaching license through an undergraduate degree program.

Since there was no existing degree that would prepare teachers for elementary classrooms, a faculty committee was appointed and charged with the task of developing an interdisciplinary arts and science degree for students who would then pursue elementary certification by completing a fifth-year/post-baccalaureate elementary teaching license. The committee used the Alaska Student Content, Performance and Cultural Standards as a guide to determining what coursework would best prepare students with the background necessary to be a competent elementary teacher. The program was originally housed in the College of Liberal Arts but in Spring 2003 was transferred to the School of Education in recognition of its value as preparation for elementary level teachers.

Following approval of the new BAS degree by the UA Board of Regents, the School of Education worked closely with its elementary students to help them understand the new "route" to becoming a licensed elementary teacher (i.e., receive an undergraduate degree and then return for a one-year licensure program provided by the School of Education). During the next several months nearly 100 students chose, or changed, their major to a BAS (76 BAS majors in Fall 2000 and 92 majors in Fall 2001).

However, during the next year, the Board of Regents made the decision to once again allow students to pursue an elementary teaching license through an undergraduate program and a new degree, the BA in Elementary Education, was approved for UAA, UAF and UAS. Upon the

approval of this degree, the large majority of the BAS majors changed their major to the BA in Elementary Education.

Although the numbers of BAS majors dropped significantly after the BA in Elementary Education became available, a decision was made to keep the BAS degree, on a trial basis, to determine whether or not it was useful for other groups of students. With the exception of three capstone courses designed specifically for the BAS degree (LAS 410W, O/2, LAS 420W, O/2 and LAS 430W, O/2), all other degree requirements have been available on an on-going basis at UAF. With the development and offering of the capstone LAS410 course in the spring of 2006, along with the requested deletion of the LAS 420 and LAS 430 courses (to be replaced with JRN/ED 486 in the fall of 2006), all course requirements for the BAS are now available.

Students who are pursuing this degree can be categorized into three primary groups.

- (1) Students who intend to be elementary teachers but who are not able to complete all of the teacher licensing requirements as an undergraduate (e.g., military personnel and spouses whose military commitments, travel schedules and relocations do not allow them to complete the BAE requirements; athletes who have scheduling conflicts that do not allow them to do a year-long internship during their senior year).

These students all intend to pursue their elementary teaching license as part of a 5<sup>th</sup> year, post-baccalaureate program, but at a time and location that fits with their particular needs.

- (2) Students who are interested in an interdisciplinary arts and sciences degree. Since UAF does not have a general liberal arts degree, the BAS provides them with an option for this type of degree.
- (3) Students in the BA in Elementary Education degree program who discover that the teaching profession is not the appropriate place for them. Many of the content area requirements are the same for the BAS and the BA in Elementary Education so students are able to utilize the coursework that they have already completed.

## Enrollment (past & projected)

UAF BAS Degree Majors by Fiscal Year since program inception				
Fiscal Year	Degree	Major		Count
2000	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	28
2001	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	104
2002	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	100
2003	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	40
2004	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	31
2005	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	18
2006	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	28

UAF BAS Degree Majors by Fall Term since program inception				
Fall Term	Degree	Major		Count
1999	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	0
2000	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	73
2001	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	87
2002	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	29
2003	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	25
2004	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	13
2005	BAS	ARSC	Arts and Sciences	27

## 2. Enrollment Information: Past and present enrollment statistics should be included

*Since this document was submitted to the Board of Regents in 2006, the number of students declared as BAS majors has continued to decrease significantly as is evidenced in the next table.*

Fall Term	Degree	Major		Number of Majors
2006	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	30
2007	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	34
2008	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	40
2009	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	25
2010	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	13
2011	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	11
2012	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	10
2013	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	3
2014	BAS	ARSC	Arts & Sciences	2

### BAS Degrees Awarded

In 2006, when this report was submitted to the Regents, 27 students had graduated from UAF with BAS degrees, and we predicted that three or four degrees might be awarded each year for the foreseeable future.

The actual number of BAS degrees awarded since 2005 is 28.

2006 = 4  
 2007 = 5  
 2008 = 10  
 2009 = 3  
 2010 = 3  
 2011 = 2  
 2012 = 0

2013 = 1

2014 = no graduates expected

**3. Resource Requirements of Program: Should include personnel costs as well as support service costs and space requirements**

There were minimal costs associated with offering this degree because of the small number of students in the degree and because only there was only one required course that wasn't offered as a required course for students in other programs (i.e., there was only one required course that was designed specifically for this degree).

**III. Approval Signature Blocks provided for:**


Elementary Department Head: Carol Barnhardt, Ph.D.

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School of Education Curriculum Council Chair: Gary Jacobson, Ph.D.

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Dean: Allan Morotti, Ph.D.

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President, UAF Faculty Senate: Cecile Lardon, Ph.D.

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Chancellor: Brian Rogers

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President: Patrick Gamble

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**III. Provide an executive summary of about one page for inclusion in the Board of Regents' committee agenda.**

**Background**

The Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree was designed in 1999 to respond to the need for an undergraduate degree that would provide the content area necessary for students who wanted to become elementary teachers. Preparation of a new interdisciplinary degree was necessary because the University of Alaska Board of Regents made the decision to suspend admission to the Bachelor of Education Degree at all three UA institutions. This decision became effective in 1999. This action resulted in the elimination of the option for students to pursue an elementary teaching license through an undergraduate degree program.

Since there was no existing degree that would prepare teachers for elementary classrooms, a faculty committee was appointed and charged with the task of developing an interdisciplinary arts and science degree for students who would then pursue elementary certification by completing a fifth-year/post-baccalaureate elementary teaching license. UAF faculty, from several departments, design the new degree using the Alaska Student Content, Performance and Cultural Standards as a guide to determining what coursework would best prepare students with the background necessary to be a competent elementary teacher. The degree was originally housed in the College of Liberal Arts but in Spring 2003 it was transferred to the School of Education in recognition of its alignment with the Alaska Student Content Standards as good preparation for students who expected to later seek certification as elementary level teachers.

Following approval of the new BAS degree by the UA Board of Regents, the School of Education worked closely with its elementary students to help them understand the new “route” to becoming a licensed elementary teacher (i.e., receive an undergraduate degree and then return for a one-year post-baccalaureate licensure program provided by the School of Education). During the next several months nearly 100 students chose, or changed, their major to a BAS (76 BAS majors in Fall 2000 and 92 majors in Fall 2001).

However, during the next year, the UA Board of Regents made the decision to once again allow students to pursue an elementary teaching license through an undergraduate program and a new degree, the BA in Elementary Education, was approved for UAA, UAF and UAS. Upon the approval of this degree, the large majority of the BAS majors changed their major to the BA in Elementary Education.

Although the numbers of BAS majors dropped significantly after the BA in Elementary Education became available, a decision was made to keep the BAS degree, on a trial basis, to determine whether or not it was useful for other groups of students. With the exception of three capstone courses designed specifically for the BAS degree (LAS 410W, O/2, LAS 420W, O/2 and LAS 430W, O/2), all other degree requirements have been available on an on-going basis at UAF. With the development and offering of the capstone LAS410 course in the spring of 2006, along with the requested deletion of the LAS 420 and LAS 430 courses (to be replaced with JRN/ED 486 in the fall of 2006), all course requirements for the BAS were available until three years ago when the demand for the LAS410 became too small to allow any department to offer it. The few remaining BAS students have petitioned the LAS410 course with a substitute course or they have petitioned to waive the requirement for this course.

Students who have pursued this degree can be categorized into three primary groups.

- (1) Students who intend to be elementary teachers but who were not able to complete all of the teacher licensing requirements as an undergraduate (e.g., military personnel and spouses whose military commitments, travel schedules and relocations did not allow them to complete the BAE requirements; athletes who have scheduling conflicts that did not allow them to do a year-long internship during their senior year).

These students intended to pursue their elementary teaching license as part of a 5<sup>th</sup> year, post-baccalaureate program, but at a time and, at an institution that fit with where they were currently living.

- (2) Students who were interested in an interdisciplinary arts and sciences degree. Since UAF did not have a general liberal arts degree, the BAS provided them with an option for this type of degree.
- (3) Students in the BA in Elementary Education degree program who discovered that the teaching profession was not the appropriate profession for them. Many of the content area requirements are the same for the BAS and the BA in Elementary Education so students are able to utilize the coursework that they have already completed.

**Since there is now a good alternative for students seeking an interdisciplinary degree (i.e., the General Studies Interdisciplinary degree), since there has been a marked decrease in the numbers of students pursuing this degree, we are proposing that this degree be deleted and that admission to the BAS degree be suspended. The two students who are currently declared BAS majors will be able to successfully complete their degree requirements.**