Memorandum

To: The College Council

From: Caroline McMahon, Secretary of the Curriculum Committee

Date: November 17, 2006

Subject: Agenda Item for the College Council

At its November 3, 2006 meeting, the College Curriculum Committee approved the attached item. This item is being submitted to the College Council for approval to be placed on the College Council agenda for December 11, 2006.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Proposal

To allow Double and Dual Majors at John Jay College of Criminal Justice
PROPOSAL TO ALLOW DOUBLE AND DUAL MAJORS AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE

Description: Now that the college has decided to move into senior college status and enhance its liberal arts profile through the introduction of new majors in the liberal arts and sciences, it is a good time to bring some of our practices in line with such an institutional profile. One practice is that of degree granting. This proposal seeks to implement the introduction of two complementary degree statuses, double and dual majors. These terms, defined below, reflect national and local distinctions; all senior colleges in the university utilize some form of these distinctions in their various multi-form degree designations.

Definitions:

“Double major - a student meets the published requirements in full of two distinct degree programs at the college, such as Government and Computer Information Systems.”

“Dual major - a degree consisting of elements of two distinct existing majors whose curricula have been merged to take advantage of coordinate or complementary methodologies or content and which requires more credit hours for completion than any one of the participating majors but fewer credit hours than the total required for each major separately added.”

Rationale: The rationale behind double and dual degrees is simply that there are a small number of students in every institution who want to combine formal courses of study for a degree. These two practices enable those choices.

For a double major, a student would ask permission from the coordinator of each major to pursue such a program. Both would have to agree and the student would have to a) remain in good academic standing, b) meet the course requirements for each of the majors as they are described in the college bulletin, and c) complete the total number of course hours for each major as given in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

For a dual major, a student would enroll in an existing major that is a composite of two majors and complete the requirements for that composite course of study. The student would not be permitted to “design” his/her own degree. The dual major would be a registered major created by the joint faculties of two programs (Government and Criminal Justice, for example) and containing the essential components of each of the programs as decided by that joint faculty, approved by the College Curriculum Committee, passed by the College Council, approved by the Board of Trustees, and registered with a HEGIS code by the New York State Education Department, just like any major. Only those programs and departments interested in offering such dual majors would embark on these projects. The structure of the dual major would be decided by the departments concerned and published as approved in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

Students could then enroll in such a dual major as they would any other major in the college.

These practices would mark the latest foray by the college into interdisciplinary curricula. John Jay has a long history of cooperation and innovative curriculum design among disciplines. These enabling proposals are in that tradition.

Proposals:

1. That the Undergraduate Bulletin be amended in two places to read as follows (additions in bold italics):

p. 59 "...(no more than 4 credits of physical education activities courses may be applied in this last category.)  **Baccalaureate students with a minimum of 45 credits and a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 at the time of declaration may complete a double major with the approval of the chief academic officers of both of the relevant majors; any student may complete a dual major where such a major exists between departments and programs.** Baccalaureate candidates may also complete an optional minor...."

p. 63 "...students are urged to consult with the listed advisors in order to plan their courses of study.  **Baccalaureate students with a minimum of 45 credits and a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 at the time of declaration may complete a double major with the approval of the chief academic officers of both of the relevant majors; any student may complete a dual major where such a major exists between departments and programs.**"

2. That departments and majors consider the development of dual majors and carefully advise students who apply for double majors.