

Abilene Christian University

Department of Mathematics

To: University General Education Council

From: Mark Riggs

Date: February 22, 2011

Subject: Changes in MATW 030/130

As presented at the January 28 UGEC meeting, the Department of Mathematics is requesting changes to the way MATW 030 and MATW 130 are listed in the catalog and scheduled. As a brief background, MATW 130, Finite Math for Applications, is equivalent to MATH 130, the general education mathematics course COBA, IT and agribusiness students take. MATW 130, however, is intended for students with low Math ACT or Math SAT scores. MATW 030, Finite Math for Applications Workshop, was originally intended as a lab or workshop experience to be taken concurrently with MATW 130. A faculty member taught the MATW 130 section 3 hours per week (TR) and a student worker served as a tutor in the workshop section, which met 2 hours per week (MW).

The practice, however, quickly changed to the faculty member teaching every day, so that a week's worth of material was spread out over four class meetings. There is no distinction between what takes place in the MATW 030 and MATW 130 classes. This has been a satisfactory arrangement, giving these students more class time to cover the same material in a given week as MATH 130.

There have been numerous problems with this setup. Banner forces a student to sign up for the workshop section corresponding to the 130 section (e.g., MATW 030.02 with MATW 130.02). There have been occasions when advisors would override that restriction. The student must be assigned a grade for each course, and each course has its own syllabus. But, in practice, the two courses are treated as one.

Therefore, we propose that MATW 130 be made a course that meets for 4 hours per week (MTWR) and has tuition charged based on meeting four hours per week. The student would receive 3 hours credit towards graduation. This is essentially what is currently in place with the two courses. As a consequence, MATW 030 would be removed from the catalog. The new course description for MATW 130 would read:

MATW 130 Quantitative Reasoning (4-0-3), fall, spring. Fundamental concepts of mathematics applications for business, economics, and the social and behavioral sciences. Math of finance, sets, introduction to probability, functions and mathematical modeling. Prerequisite: Math SAT score of 400-490; Math ACT score of 17-19; or a passing grade in MATW 019. For COBA, information technology, and agribusiness majors only. Billed for 4 hours, receives 3 hours graduation credit. Will satisfy University Requirements mathematics requirement. Same as MATH 130.