

Abilene Christian University

Department of Mathematics

To: University General Education Council

From: Mark Riggs

Date: February 22, 2011

Subject: Changes in MATW 020/120

As presented at the January 28 UGEC meeting, the Department of Mathematics is requesting changes to the way MATW 020 and MATW 120 are listed in the catalog and scheduled. As a brief background, MATW 120, Quantitative Reasoning, is equivalent to MATH 120, the general education mathematics course most students take. MATW 120, however, is intended for students with low Math ACT or Math SAT scores. MATW 020, Quantitative Reasoning Workshop, was originally intended as a lab or workshop experience to be taken concurrently with MATW 120. A faculty member taught the MATW 120 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 020 and MATW 120 classes. This has been a satisfactory arrangement, giving these students more class time to cover the same material in a given week as MATH 120.

There have been numerous problems with this setup. Banner forces a student to sign up for the workshop section corresponding to the 120 section (e.g., MATW 020.02 with MATW 120.02). 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 120 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 no different than what is currently in place with the two courses. As a consequence, MATW 020 would be removed from the catalog. The new course description for MATW 120 would read:

MATW 120 Quantitative Reasoning (4-0-3), fall, spring. Statistics and data analysis, mathematics of finance, probability, models including ratio, proportion, linear, exponential. Calculator intensive. Prerequisite: meet one of the following – MATH SAT score of 400-490; MATH ACT score of 17-19; or a passing grade in MATW 019. For non-science, non-business majors. Billed for 4 hours, receives 3 hours graduation credit. Will satisfy University Requirements mathematics requirement. Same as MATH 120.