ACADEMIC PROGRAM CHANGES – IMPLEMENTATION REQUEST

I. PROGRAM NAME AND CIP CODE
   A. CURRENT PROGRAM NAME, DEGREE(S) AND CIP CODE
      Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS), Meteorology. CIP code: 40.0401

      PROPOSED PROGRAM NAME, DEGREE(S) AND CIP CODE (if applicable) – select an appropriate CIP Code from the National Statistics for Education web site or contact Patti King (621-4107 or pattik@email.arizona.edu) for assistance.

II. DEPARTMENT/UNIT AND COLLEGE
   A. Current department/unit and college
      Department of Atmospheric Sciences, College of Science

   B. Proposed department/unit and college (if applicable)

III. DESIRED EFFECTIVE TERM
   Fall 2014

IV. BACKGROUND
Here we request permission to waive the second language requirement for non-B.A. undergraduate degrees as it applies to our existing online BAS Meteorology program which is designed for U.S. Air Force weather forecasters with an AAS degree from the Air University (AU) that controls the Associate to Baccalaureate (AU-ABC) program.

1. While a second language requirement is common for UA degrees, at the national level BAS degrees do not require second language proficiency. Therefore, imposing such a requirement puts this degree at a competitive disadvantage.

2. The 60-unit BAS program is already heavy with required math and sciences courses making it impossible to accommodate a second language course without exceeding 60 units. Increasing beyond 60 would jeopardize the BAS entirely because U.S. Air Force would no longer recommend it to their service-men and -women.

This degree was created approximately 4 years ago to serve military weather forecasters, especially the 200-hundred at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, who have complete Air University’s AAS degree in Meteorology, but are unable to complete a bachelor’s degree because of frequent transfers to other bases elsewhere in the world. Even if they were to begin their B.S. studies in-class at
the UA, most universities will not transfer all their credits requiring them to take or retook courses costing them additional time and money.

Therefore, the commander of the 25th Operational Weather Squadron at Davis-Monthan, which has responsibility for weather forecasting for the western continental United States (west of the Rocky Mountains from Alaska to Mexico) worked with the department of Atmospheric Sciences (ATMO) to create a fully online BAS degree which would be built on the Air Force Air University’s two year AAS degree. In speaking to officials at Air University under which our BAS degree has been accepted, they indicated that airmen and the AU greatly preferred degrees that would contain no more than 60 units for completion beyond what the 60 units required by the AAS. More than 60 units would place the degree in another category in the Air Force online catalog and they believe it would be less attractive to their personnel because of the additional course work required.

The purpose of the degree is to improve airmen’s knowledge base so that they will be more affective in their work at DM or wherever they are subsequently located. It would also facilitate promotions as well as positioning airmen well for careers should they choose to leave the military.

V. RATIONALE FOR THE REQUEST

We request a waiver of the second language requirement for students in the BAS in Meteorology for the following reasons:

1. The national norm for BAS degrees is to not include a second language requirement. In order to be competitive with other programs, we ask that the second language requirement be eliminated.

2. The additional language requirement would be costly in terms of time to graduate. The monetary impact would also be costly. We already have many potential students who have inquired about the degree, but are concerned about the cost even with the University’s generous offer to enable them to be classified as in-state students for the first seven units of each semester.

3. We cannot eliminate any of the math and physics requirements because they are necessary for this calculus-based program. In fact, it is the mathematical rigor of UA’s BAS meteorology which makes it so attractive to professional meteorologists.

It is worth noting that we have already had requests for information about our online degree from forecasters in several countries around the world because the World Meteorological Organization, and the National Weather Service are introducing stricter rules for professional weather forecasters.

VI. BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED

Student Benefits:
• Students will complete their BAS degrees with the 60 units of course work as currently spelled out in the program of study.
• Students will be able to complete the BAS remotely without the need to take face-to-face language classes or proficiency exams.

UA Benefits:
• Advising and administration of the program will be much easier without the need to find acceptable online second-language, second-semester level courses for BAS meteorology students.

VII. IMPACT ON DEPARTMENT/INSTITUTION
Easier administration as well as advising.

VIII. IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE
See Benefits section

IX. IMPLICATIONS FOR FACULTY AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE
No adverse effects. Advising would be easier.

X. IMPACT ON OTHER ACADEMIC UNITS
None.

XI. BUDGETARY IMPACT -- indicate new resources needed and source of funding. If reallocating resources, indicate where resources will be taken from and the impact this will have on the students/faculty/program/unit.

None.

Note: In general, academic program changes result in reallocation of resources or the need for additional resources, some of which may be one-time expenditures. To avoid potential delays in the on-campus approval process, be sure to address the budgetary impact resulting from the proposed program changes.