Proposal to Eliminate Technical Elective Level Restriction

The University catalog (2012-2013, p. 38) states that technical electives “should be at a level appropriate to the level at which they appear in the program”. This is a long-standing restriction.

However, in our chemistry programs and I suspect most other science and engineering programs, the number of required courses (most with prerequisites) forces elective courses to be placed in the junior and senior years. The technical elective restriction implies that only 3xxx or 4xxx technical electives can be taken in this situation.

Students should be encouraged to broaden their education by considering introductory courses (e.g. Introduction to Astronomy, Oceanography, Biological Discovery, Introduction to Mechanical Engineering) and 2XXX electives as well as higher level electives in areas required by their major. Therefore, it is proposed that the technical elective level restriction be removed from the catalog.