MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY, Liberal Arts—Behavior Analysis Emphasis

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: University Senate Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of the Issue – why the issue is being considered:

Currently, the Department of Psychology offers a standard 36-credit major, MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY, Liberal Arts. In 2000, the Department began offering a set of courses and internship experience in behavior analysis, an area of specialization within psychology that applies basic behavioral principles to improve socially significant behaviors. Completion of the standard Psychology major that included these courses and the internship prepares students to work with individuals with exceptional needs such as autism and other developmental disabilities. Students are also eligible to sit for a national certification examination leading to credentialing as a Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst. The development of this program within the Psychology major has led to the development of the Campus Autism Program. UW-Eau Claire is the only university in Wisconsin to offer such a program. Demand for behavior analysts is high.

However, with the existing psychology major, students who complete the behavior analysis coursework and internship do not receive specific academic recognition for their accomplishment. The proposed Behavior Analysis Emphasis within the major will provide such recognition. The implementation of this major requires no additional resources.

Points discussed by Committee:

They are listed above.

Pros of the Recommendation:

Provides an academic credential for students completing this area of specialization within psychology.
Serves local and regional needs for behavior analysts, particularly for those providing interventions for children with autism
Requires no additional resources
Cons of the Recommendation

None known

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Academic Policies Committee by a vote of 7 for and 0 against on November 10

Recommends to the University Senate the approval of the proposed MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY, Liberal arts—Behavior Analysis Emphasis.

Implementation date: Fall 2010