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

In October 2010 the University Senate approved the proposal for the Entitlement to Plan the Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) degree and the Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication (OLC). The entitlement to plan was granted by UW System administration. The current proposal is the second step in the process of establishing the new degree and major: Authorization to Implement the BPS degree and the OLC comprehensive major. As described in the Entitlement to Plan proposal, the proposed BLS is designed to help implement the Growth Agenda, by providing Wisconsin residents with family and work commitments access to completion of the bachelor’s degree.

The proposed BPS degree is a 60-credit degree completion program offered entirely online. Students admitted to the program will have completed at least 60 credits as part of an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree, including the General Education, English competency, mathematics competency, and cultural diversity requirements of bachelor’s degrees at UW-Eau Claire. As is true of all degrees offered by the College of Arts and Sciences, students must complete at least 90 credits of Arts and Sciences or equivalent courses. In the BPS program they will complete 45 credits of Arts and Sciences courses and 15 credits of College of Business courses.

The Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication comprises three seminars of three credits each and 51 credits of courses designed specifically to meet the needs of community and organization leaders. Two seminars introduce students to the study of leadership and communication and develop knowledge and skills in research and data analysis methods needed for decision making in organizations. The third seminar, the capstone, requires students to integrate and apply what students have learned in the major in a service learning experience in their communities or organizations. Student/faculty collaborative research is also a possibility. The remaining 51 credits include extensive coursework in communication and other arts and sciences areas such as economics, sociology, natural sciences, history, philosophy, and political sciences.

In the OLC major, three courses have their own prefix, PSAS (Professional Studies Arts and Sciences), to identify them as core seminars in the major. The five courses offered by the College of Business also have a separate prefix, PSB (Professional Studies Business), to distinguish them from College of Business courses that can be taken by students pursuing the BBA degree.

Points Discussed by Committee:
The need for a degree of this kind: the proposal for authorization to implement the degree provides extensive data showing the need and interest in this degree.

The structure of the degree: described above

Funding for the degree: funding for the degree will be provided entirely by the UW-Extension Division of Continuing Education, Outreach, and E-Learning, including funding for faculty to develop the courses, for the Academic Director of the program, for replacement instructors, for academic support units (e.g., registration, financial aid, admissions), for an academic staff program manager in the UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education office, and for an adviser/coach and technical support in the UW-Extension office.

The degree will be housed in the College of Arts Sciences and offered in collaboration with the College of Business.

**Pros of Recommendation:**

The BPS degree will be the first online degree offered by UW-Eau Claire

The degree will help students attain the five goals of liberal education

Hallmarks of UW-Eau Claire programs such as the capstone course, service learning, student/faculty research collaboration are incorporated in the degree

Funding for development of online courses and for faculty who will be teaching them is being provided by UW-Extension

The BPS degree does not duplicate any degree offered by UW-Eau Claire

**Cons of Recommendation:**

None

**Technology/Human Resource Impact:**

Staff time to enter the degree in the University Catalogue

**Committee Recommendation:**

That the proposal for Authorization to Implement the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree and the Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication and the PSAS prefix be approved.

**MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of __9__ for to __0__ against on __March 29, 2011__ (Date)
Recommends that

The University Senate approve the proposal for Authorization to Implement the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree and the Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication and the PSAS prefix.

Implementation Date: Upon Regent Approval

Signed: ___Barbara Lozar__________________
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office