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

The proposed entitlement to plan a Bachelor of Professional Degree (BPS) and a Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication is a response to increasing needs to provide accessible Bachelor degree completion programs to adults with full-time working and/or family commitments. The proposal is part of Adult Student Initiative led by UW System and UW-Extension. Wisconsin ranks 38th in the nation in the percentage of residents with Bachelor’s degrees. It ranks 8th in the nation in the percentage of residents with Associate degrees. The degree will be offered online.

The proposed degree is being developed in line with the Adult Student Initiative, led by UW System Colleges and UW-Extension. It is designed for students who have completed the Associate of Arts and Sciences (AAS) degree in the UW Colleges and wish to complete the bachelor’s degree. Students who have completed the AAS degree have completed at least 60 credits, including the General Education, English competency, mathematics competency, and cultural diversity requirements of bachelor’s degrees at UW-Eau Claire. The BPS will enable students to qualify for careers that require bachelor’s degrees or to advance in their existing careers. The Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication will be offered entirely online.

The BPS degree comprises the basic baccalaureate structure of all degrees at UW-Eau Claire. As a College of Arts and Sciences degree, it requires that at least 90 of the 120 credits must be attained in Arts and Sciences courses offered by or accepted as equivalent to courses in the College of Arts and Sciences. 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, and political sciences. All these courses will be offered online.

Points Discussed by Committee:

The need for a degree of this kind
The structure of the degree
Funding for the degree
The degree will be housed in the College of Arts Sciences

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. Initial 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:

There was some concern expressed regarding the quality of online instruction.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None at this time. If approved, this proposal will be submitted to UW System. If approved there, the proposal for authorization to implement the degree will have to be completed and approved by shared governance bodies at UW-Eau Claire and by the Board of Regents. UW-Extension will provide the seed money to implement the degree, including needed technology and human resources.

Committee Recommendation:

That the proposed Entitlement to Plan the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree and the Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication be approved.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of __7__ for to __0__ against on __October 12, 2010__ (Date)

Recommends that

The University Senate approve the proposed Entitlement to Plan the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree and the Comprehensive Major in Organizational Leadership and Communication.

Implementation Date: Upon Regent Approval

Signed: Barbara Lozar
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office