REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

The certificate program in French proficiency addresses the needs of students in any major or minor other than French who would like to add proficiency in French to their skill set. This certificate program would provide the following benefits to the following populations:

1. Students:
   a. will provide practical written and oral language skills in French to complement majors in all other disciplines across the university;
   b. will strengthen the prospects of students who intend to pursue careers or graduate study in the many areas in which proficiency in French is useful.
2. Department of Foreign Languages:
   a. could attract more students to its classes;
   b. could increase number of French minors or majors;
3. The College of Arts and Sciences: would provide a measurable demonstration of our students’ preparedness as global citizens;
4. The University: would widen the array of current certificate options available in Foreign Languages (Spanish and German)

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Students would enter after placing at the 200 level on language proficiency exams. Students not at that level could begin at the 101 level and then work toward the certificate.
2. The courses comprising the proposed French Proficiency certificate program are core courses in the French major. These courses are currently being offered with available room for more students. These courses will continue to be offered each year.
3. The department anticipates approximately 10 students will pursue the certificate option. This number will not increase resource requirements on the department.
4. Spanish and German already have a proficiency certificate for students. This proposal just extends the offerings to another global language.

Pros of Recommendation:

1. French is a global language. This certificate will prepare our students to engage globally without the time constraints associated with pursuing a full major/minor in French.
2. The certificate program would result in zero additional resources.
3. The certificate program could increase the number of students graduating our liberal arts institution with a foreign language proficiency.
4. The certificate program could meet many of the liberal education learning goals. This program is also directly aligned with Goal #3 of the Centennial Plan: accelerate global learning.

Cons of Recommendation: No cons identified.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

By a vote of __10__ for to __0__ against on April 10, 2012 Academic Policies Committee reports For The Record that:

A French Proficiency Certificate Program be approved for implementation Fall 2012 and inclusion in the next University Catalog.

Implementation Date: Immediate, with publication in the next catalog change

Signed: 

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office