REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

The proposed certificate program benefits the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University primarily by offering our students a solid grounding in theoretical and applied ethical reasoning that will enable them to reason more effectively in civic, professional, and personal contexts. While not itself a professional certification, the certificate indicates to potential employers a student’s capacity to reason ethically, which contributes to the missions of almost all for- and not-for-profit organizations. Philosophy majors and minors pursuing the certificate benefit by showing they possess a marketable skill. Students from other majors, especially those in pre-professional programs with ethics requirements of their own (such as Health Care Administration, Communications and Journalism, Computer Science) who are interested in the ethical issues central to their fields will similarly benefit. The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies will benefit from attracting more students to its classes and by the possibility that certificate students might add a Philosophy minor to their degree program. The College benefits by its providing interested students with the opportunity to pursue more deeply the Liberal Education Learning Goal of Individual and Social Responsibility and to realize the outcomes currently associated with that goal, students will develop skills and values for ethical reasoning and students will use ethical reasoning in civic and professional contexts. The University benefits by sustaining a program aimed so squarely at this vital Liberal Education Learning Goal and associated outcomes.

The target audience includes existing majors and minors within the Department's two programs, students in other majors and minors, especially pre-professional programs with existing ethics requirements, and students interested in graduate study and careers in health care ethics, legal ethics, business and corporate ethics and compliance. The Ethics Certificate is a natural complement to the Leadership Certificate currently offered through the College of Business's Department of Management and Marketing. Combining elements from these certificates could make a fine Topical Minor; it's possible that student demand might sustain a permanent multi-disciplinary and cross-College minor in Ethics and Leadership. The demand for ethical expertise in the for- and not-for-profit workplace is ever increasing, as are the number of graduate programs aimed at professional ethics. The certificate would be unique in the UW System.

Points Discussed by Committee: Dr. McAleer presented the above points.

Pros of Recommendation:

1. The certificate would benefit students within and across departments and colleges.
2. The certificate would benefit the department, college, university and employers of our graduates.
3. The certificate would complement other certificates (e.g., the COB Leadership Certificate).

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None. Using existing faculty and courses.

Committee Recommendation:

Establish an Ethics Certificate in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee:

by a vote of _9___ for to __0__ against on __October 23, 2012

Recommends that an Ethics Certificate be established in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Implementation Date: Fall 2013 Catalog

Signed: _____Jean A. Pratt ________
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office