REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

Many students across campus have indicated an interest in earning some credential in American Sign Language (ASL). The only option available to them is to pursue a topical minor through CSD with a focus on ASL. The review and approval process of the students’ curricular proposals for the topical minor are very time-consuming for faculty in CSD. Additionally, many CSD majors study ASL. The topical minor is not a reasonable option for them because there is a limitation to the number of credits earned in their major department that can count toward the topical minor. Since all of the ASL courses are offered through the CSD Department, the ASL Certificate would provide them the opportunity to be recognized for having completed a certain depth of study in the subject.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. The large call for ASL continues to increase. A survey spanning 4 years indicated that students are using, and expect to use, ASL skills in their careers and in their personal lives.
2. The courses are taught on campus through the Communication Sciences & Disorders Department, but the Instructional Academic Staff are funded through Continuing Education. Future funding appears stable for these courses.
3. No additional library resources are necessary.
4. The courses for the proposed certificate are already being taught, and have permanent course numbers.
5. The ASL courses have no overlap with any College of Education and Human Sciences major or minor.
6. Although the proposed certificate does not include formal experiential learning requirements, instructors regularly incorporate presentations by guest speakers, including members of the Deaf community, in their classes, and through the activities of the ASL Student Association.

Pros of Recommendation:

1. A certificate in ASL may be helpful to students pursuing jobs as teachers, nurses, SLPs, etc., to have the additional basic ability to converse with individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.
2. An official certificate will provide time savings over the current practice of creating topical minors with essentially the same courses.
3. The proposed certificate has no “hidden” credits.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
Establish a new credit-bearing certificate in American Sign Language offered through the Department of Communication Sciences.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of __9__ for to _0___ against on _____February 26, 2013,

recommends that a Certificate in American Sign Language within the Department of Communication Sciences be established.

Implementation Date: Immediate

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office