Certificate in World Religions

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 offers our students a foundational understanding of the beliefs, practices, and cultural impact of the world's major religious traditions that will enable them to negotiate the complex challenges of life in an increasingly interconnected and globalized world. The impact of religions on world events is undeniable, and students pursuing any disciplinary major can benefit greatly from the learning opportunities offered by this certificate program. The certificate enhances the College of Arts and Sciences and the University's success in providing graduates who are competitive in the market place.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. There will be no overlap between certification and major/minor as the certificate is not for students in Religious Studies.
2. Library resources are sufficient to support the certificate.
3. The certificate is a truncated version of the Religious Studies major and minor. The courses for this certificate are currently being taught on a regular rotation.

Pros of Recommendation:

1. World religions impact how we operate in our complex, global society.
2. Students from outside the Religious Studies program can enhance their marketability with a certificate demonstrating foundational knowledge of world religions.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:

Establish a new certificate in World Religions offered through the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _8_ for to __0__ against on March 12, 2013,

recommends that a new certificate in World Religions within the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies be established.

Implementation Date: Fall 2013

Signed: ______ Jean A. Pratt ______
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office