REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
Effective Fall 2015, certificates will be eligible to be used in place of a minor for standard majors (a secondary program). This change in status prompted a change in policies and procedures, with an accompanying update of the Undergraduate Catalog language. Members of the Associate Dean’s group generated the proposed changes.

Points Discussed by Committee:
2. Change includes updating the Undergraduate Catalog text to specify a 2.0 GPA for minors and certificates. The university minimum GPA for certificates has been a 2.0 all along and this was specified in the catalog, but not under University Graduation Requirements because certificates have not been degree programs. Currently each college requires a 2.0 for a minor, so effectively there is no change, but the changed text establishes the GPA requirement at the University level.
3. The 25% residency requirement is aligned with Higher Learning Commission best practices for stand-alone credentials. The Associate Dean’s discussed removing the residency requirement altogether. Minors don’t have a residency requirement because they can’t stand alone. Minors can’t be earned independently of a degree.
4. Certificates are dual purpose in that degree seekers and non-degree seekers can earn certificates. Certificate is a stand-alone credential.
5. Standards #9 was removed because certificates are degree programs. Procedure 1.d.iv was removed because it was redundant with 1.d.ii. Procedure 1.e.v was requested to be changed to “Identification of an administrative home for certificate programs involving more than one academic department/program”.
6. Per the Higher Learning Commission, most certificates are 12 credits. UWEC currently offers 26 certificates. Of those, 13 are 12 credits and 8 are 18 credits. Future discussion might revolve around differentiating between 18-credit certificates and minors.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Certificates provide for flexibility.
2. Certificates provide community members with further employability opportunities.
3. More programs could consider offering certificates.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
Update the policy and related Undergraduate Catalog text related to credit-bearing certificates as follows:
1. Update the “Policy Statement on Credit-Bearing Certificate Programs” published on the Academic Affairs/Provost website (https://www.uwec.edu/AcadAff/policies/) per Appendix A.
2. Update pages 40 and 47 in the Undergraduate Catalog per Appendix B.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of __9__ in favor to __0___ against on October 7, 2014,

recommends that the policy and related Undergraduate Catalog text related to credit-bearing certificates be updated as follows:

1. Update the “Policy Statement on Credit-Bearing Certificate Programs” published on the Academic Affairs/Provost website (https://www.uwec.edu/AcadAff/policies/) per Appendix A.
2. Update pages 40 and 47 in the Undergraduate Catalog per Appendix B.

Implementation Date: 2015-2016 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office