REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
The proposed research emphasis in the comprehensive Mathematics major was part of a $300,000 funded NSF grant titled Partnership for Undergraduate Research: Enhancing the Mathematics Curriculum. A purpose of the NSF grant was to create a partnership between UWEC and UWM, to engage underrepresented students in mathematics research, and serve as a model of a sustainable way to increase the number of undergraduates participating in collaborative research.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. A comprehensive major in Mathematics with a Research emphasis should not impose undue pressure in the related science programs, as significant options exist from which to choose. A more direct impact might be felt in Communication and Journalism or English, as the breadth of options is limited.
2. Possibly 12 students might switch from the Liberal Arts emphasis of the standard Mathematics major to the comprehensive Mathematics major with the Research emphasis.
3. The proposed emphasis would not take students from existing Math courses, since those courses are part of the Math core. The Department of Mathematics is planning on combining the applied and statistics emphases of the standard major.
4. The purpose of the NSF $300,000 grant was to revise undergraduate curriculum and incorporate research. UW-Milwaukee students are able to enroll in Math 380, which is offered as a distance education course. No other UW System school offers a similar course. UW-Milwaukee was selected—in part—because of the number of students they recruit from underrepresented populations.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. This new research emphasis could possibly be used to recruit students, since it includes research experiences as an undergraduate student.
2. The “credit-banking” model integrated with this proposal addresses a current faculty workload issue.
3. A Research emphasis would help prepare students both for graduate school and for future careers.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None
1. The courses have already been created; current faculty teach the courses.
2. Faculty will rotate as the instructor on record for MATH 280, based on the number of credits they have “banked.” The banking of credits is based on the number of students enrolled in Math 480. For example, three students working with a faculty member in the fall and spring would generate 2 credits each semester creating a total of 12 credit hours. When that faculty member meets a certain threshold (yet to be determined), he/she would teach 480 as part of their load.

Committee Recommendation:
Establish a Research Emphasis (Code 180-XXX) within the Comprehensive Major: Mathematics, Liberal Arts.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _8_ in favor and _0_ against on February 9, 2016,

recommends that a Research Emphasis (Code 180-XXX) within the Comprehensive Major: Mathematics, Liberal Arts in the Department of Mathematics be established.

Implementation Date: 2016-2017 Catalog

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

Send to: University Senate Office