Organizational Leadership

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered (from the Director of the BPS program):

The Organizational Leadership and Communication 60 credit comprehensive major within the BPS degree was designed to be an entirely online completion program for students who came to UW-Eau Claire with an Associate of Arts and Science degree or equivalent coursework. Many students who are in the program have come to us with far more baccalaureate-level credits. These students would benefit from a 36 credit major option which will shorten their time to degree. This is timely. Since the minor is becoming optional, these students will be able to choose a certificate program to complement the 36-credit major option. All necessary course work already exists to offer the 36-credit option, so no additional resources will be needed to implement this program.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. The Business of Professional Studies program serves an underserved population.
2. A 36-credit option would provide an additional path to the BPS.
3. Credits are UW credits with “stop out” (students who temporarily withdraw from college).
4. Most of these students are in their careers—they come from all different fields.
5. A 36-credit major with a certificate will enable students to focus on career choices (e.g., healthcare).
6. Students can select any online certificate. Some topical minor are online. The program does not have to accept specific certificates (i.e., certificates don’t have to be packaged together with the 36-credit major).
7. Many of the students in this program end up with 130 credits by the time of graduation because they come in with so many approved credits. A goal of the 36-credit option is to enable students to graduate with closer to 120 credits.
8. How many students (a) are in the BPS program and (b) do you anticipate would take the 36-credit option?
9. Will the 36-credit option jeopardize the 60-credit comprehensive major?
10. Which certificates are online and so could be taken by these students?
11. How many credits does a typical student have when entering the program?
12. What are we losing in terms of program quality for students who opt for the 36-credit over the 60-credit major, since we can’t guarantee what comprises the other credits they transfer in?

Pros of Recommendation:

1. More timely graduation for students in the workforce
2. Same rigor
3. Meets all the liberal education requirements
4. Adds flexibility
5. Addresses the underserved

Cons of Recommendation:

1. No certificates online. Contact Kate for which online courses could be crafted into online certificates.
2. Topical minor might be online.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:

Establish a 36-credit major option within the Organizational Leadership and Communication program.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of __ in favor and __ against on ____(Date)___,

recommends that a 36-credit major option within the Organizational Leadership and Communication program be established.

Implementation Date: 2015-2016 Catalog

Signed: _______Jean A. Pratt_____  
            Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office