REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

The Departments of Biology and Psychology are currently developing a proposal for a comprehensive major in Neuroscience, which is the study of the brain and all its functions. The nature of the field of neuroscience is interdisciplinary, including biology, psychology, philosophy and clinical areas. Sufficient student interest exists to move forward with a minor at this time.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Faculty will be encouraged to write research grants. In fact, Dan Janik is currently conducting research in this area. Because only 7-10% of grant applications are funded, faculty also pursue other avenues of research funding.
2. Although the proposal states that the minor comprises 24 required credits, it really requires 28 credits because of the CHEM 103 prerequisite. The full program requirements will be clearly articulated in the Undergraduate Catalog; advisors will communicate these requirements clearly to students.
3. The BIOL 350 course does not require the BIOL 351 lab, which provides more flexibility for students who must select 3 of the 4 courses listed.
4. Dan Janik (Biology) and other instructors teaching in Phillips 306 maintain the lab equipment as part of their regular teaching duties. Lab mod funds and departmental funds (if necessary) can be used to repair/replace lab equipment. Dan Janik also has a first floor research lab that is partially funded from the Foundation.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. A minor in Neuroscience will be especially appealing to students in biology, psychology, pre-med/pharmacy, and nursing.
2. The proposal details the great industry demand for Neuroscience.

Cons of Recommendation: The only concern discussed was the potential for hidden credits associated with the CHEM 103 prerequisite. However, students pursuing this minor would likely be required to take CHEM 103 as part of their major, so that concern was minimized.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:
1. No additional funding needed as this minor is comprised of existing courses offered on a regular basis and taught by existing faculty.
2. Ample equipment exists to support this program in the neuroscience lab in 306 Phillips Hall.

Committee Recommendation:

Establish a Minor: Neuroscience, Liberal Arts, administratively housed in the Department of Biology.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _8_ in favor and _0_ against on March 29, 2016

recommends that a Minor: Neuroscience, Liberal Arts, administratively housed within the Department of Biology, be established.

Implementation Date: 2016-2017 Catalog

Signed: ____Jean A. Pratt____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office