REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
[From the proposal]: This certificate aligns with the UW-Eau Claire Guide Post Goal to "increase enrollment of students of color" by 20% and to "close the opportunity gap" because it will strengthen the diversity of our curriculum, making us more attractive to diverse applicants. It will also make our university more attractive to Ojibwe students, and those from tribes that are related linguistically and culturally to the Ojibwe, including Regional tribes: the Potawatomi, Menominee, Cree, and Ottawa.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. UWEC will be the only UW campus to offer a certificate in Ojibwe language. It is a 15-credit certificate. Madison had one course they taught 8 years ago; Milwaukee is not actually teaching Ojibwe.
2. The proposed certificate includes courses in Ojibwe culture and history.
3. Students can choose between three or four semesters of language. The language courses and the speech presentation component of non-language courses are in-person and have been streamed live online and archived (since 2008). If a student pays for the course credits, then they can join via Skype and participate in the class; those who don’t pay for course credit can still participate via BlueJeans (technology) and are able to send text questions.
4. Some courses included in the proposed certificate have been approved for LE.
5. The AIS 111 and AIS 112 Ojibwe courses became LANG courses Fall 2015. Only the Ojibwe language courses are cross listed with LANG—not the culture courses.
6. Several faculty members—both independently and collaboratively—from different programs are conducting research in native communities: Wendy Makoons (Language), Todd Wellnitz (Biology), Jim Oberly (History), Daniel Strouthes (Geography and Anthropology), John Mann (History), Heather Moody (American Indian Studies). Additionally, both the Department of Social Work and the College of Education have engaged students in service-learning projects on different reservations. The proposed certificate supports faculty and student engagement with Native communities.
7. The Chair will work with the Registrar’s Office to ensure that the certificate can be easily coded and tracked via a normal Degree Audit.

Pros of Recommendation: Please see the benefits listed on page 3 of the proposal.

Cons of Recommendation: None were identified.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None
1. All courses for the proposed certificate exist, including a new LANG 160 culture course offered for the first time Fall 2016. Dr. Geniusz teaches the courses as part of her regular load.
2. Dr. Wendy Makoons Geniusz will be responsible for ongoing advising for students in this certificate, and these duties will be part of her regular advising duties.

Committee Recommendation:
Establish a certificate in Ojibwe Language to be housed in the Department of Languages.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _5_ in favor and _0_ against on March 8, 2016,

recommends that a certificate in Ojibwe Language within the Department of Languages be established.

Implementation Date: 2016-2017 Catalog

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

Send to: University Senate Office