REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

UWEC values equity, diversity, and inclusivity. The Sociology Department (and Sociology as a discipline) emphasizes the study of social inequality. The purpose of this certificate is to offer courses in each of the four main forms of social inequality: race, class, gender, and sexualities.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. The proposed Social Diversity certificate is a 12-credit certificate that is unique from any minor. Sociology students can take the courses but not earn the certificate.
2. EDI-focused certificate using courses on race, class, gender, and sexuality; four courses compose certificate (SOC 312, SOC 314, SOC 426, and either SOC 419 or SOC 202) -- SOC 101 is a prereq for all except 202 and would be waived for non-degree seeking students.
3. The Department titled the certificate social diversity rather than using the word inequality, which might deter students from pursuing the certificate. Social diversity is more inviting.
4. The plan is to market this certificate to the community. The certificate will likely appeal to those in business sectors and education—especially non-degree seeking, special students.
5. Sociology currently has two minors with 75 students pursuing a Sociology, Liberal Arts minor. Only one course overlaps between the proposed certificate and the Sociology, Liberal Arts minor. The Department will monitor course availability based on demand for course in both the certificate and the minor.
6. SOC 202 and 419 are cross-listed with Women’s Studies but represents a unique and complementary program to those offered through Women’s Studies.
7. The motion was made to establish a Social Diversity Certificate within the Department of Sociology. Motion was seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.
8. 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:
1. Will support a core University value.
2. Include flexibility to be earned by community members not pursuing a degree.
3. Uses currently existing courses taught by existing faculty.

Cons of Recommendation: None were identified.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:
Minimal. The chair will handle any increases in workload.

Committee Recommendation:
Establish a certificate in Social Diversity to be housed in the Department of Sociology.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _6_ in favor and _0_ against on March 8, 2016,

recommends that certificate in Social Diversity to be housed in the Department of Sociology be established.

Implementation Date: 2016-2017 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt______
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office