REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue (as submitted by the Department of Foreign Languages):
A student survey from two years ago demonstrated good interest in the expansion of offerings in the area of Spanish linguistics and sociolinguistics. We have three faculty whose specialization is in linguistics and sociolinguistics and their talents in this area are being underused. Because of this, we will not need to add any new resources in order to offer this emphasis. An emphasis that includes the courses we are developing in the history of the Spanish language in Spain, Latin America and the U.S., sociolinguistics in Latin America and the U.S., etc. serve many different populations. These include our traditional student population who, upon graduation, will most likely work with and/or come into contact with the growing Spanish-speaking population in the U.S., as well as the growing Heritage Speaker population in Wisconsin and the Midwest that is attending UWEC. This emphasis also would provide opportunities for UWEC students to acquire greater multicultural awareness, sensitivity, and Spanish language competency.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. There is growing interest in linguistics, especially applied linguistics. Over 400 students of the approximately 740 students in Foreign Languages are pursuing majors/minors in Spanish.
2. There would be no need for extra staffing, as there are already three faculty with linguistics expertise who could teach the additional four courses, two of which would be offered each semester.
3. Existing library resources would suffice, since many resources are available online.
4. Adding the new courses would not diminish the department’s ability to offer liberal education courses nor would it take away from other courses that Spanish majors would take. Existing faculty can teach the content within their expertise, the 100- and 200-level courses for General/Liberal Education, and the new courses.
5. Investment in the Spanish language would not pull students from other languages; rather, the Department hopes that this focus on heritage courses will increase similar interest in the other languages.
6. A 4:4 teaching load is common; language classes are capped at 15, 20, 25; Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty carry a 4:4 teaching load plus clinicals.
7. This proposal has strong departmental support.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. This emphasis is responsive to student need/interest.
2. This emphasis would offer potential for interesting synergies with other departments and programs such as English, AIS, Hmong Studies.
3. The departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Social Work both have a high demand for Spanish language; graduate schools want bilingualism emphasis—this emphasis would facilitate that
4. Nongovernment Organizations (NGOs) require language skills; students are also more sensitive to the heritage speakers within our region.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:
None. Although 4 new classes will be proposed as part of this new emphasis, only two courses will be offered in a given semester (the courses will rotate across semesters). The Department of Foreign Languages has three new faculty. Faculty teaching loads will shift from a 3:3 to 4:4 teaching load to accommodate the new courses.

Committee Recommendation:
Establish a new emphasis titled Linguistics Emphasis (Code 320-2XX) within the Major: Spanish, Liberal Arts.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of ___9___ for to ___0___ against on November 12, 2013

recommends that a new emphasis titled Linguistics Emphasis (Code 320-2XX) within the Major: Spanish, Liberal Arts within the Department of Foreign Languages be established.

Implementation Date: 2014-2015 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office