REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:
The Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies is seeking permission to coordinate an interdisciplinary minor in Public Health, Liberal Arts. This proposal is in collaboration with the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Communication and Journalism, Economics, English, Geography and Anthropology, Kinesiology, Management and Marketing (HCA), Mathematics, Nursing, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Psychology, Political Science, Social Work, and Sociology. The proposed minor program will introduce students to the core knowledge and values of Public Health while allowing students the flexibility of exploring the various domains that comprise Public Health.

Points Discussed by Committee:
In the past twenty years there has been a dramatic increase in the demand for undergraduate programs in Public Health.
Programs in Public Health typically combine social sciences, sciences, mathematics, humanities and the arts.
The proposed program aligns well with the liberal arts mission of UW Eau Claire.
Public Health is different from environmental health programs offered at UW Eau Claire.
The program is very flexible and all existing coursework for the proposed major is currently offered.
Students will have no problem completing the minor in a timely manner.

Pros of Recommendation:
Broad based participation in teaching various aspect of Public Health.
Emphasis on effective communication, critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving and use of quantitative data in decision making; aligns well with the goals of the baccalaureate for UW-Eau Claire.
Undergraduate program demand is rapidly growing and this should be a very popular option for completing degree requirements in a large number of undergraduate programs.
Program complements our health professions majors and our pre-professional health programs and should feed into graduate programs and professional schools, as well as inspire some students to consider advanced education in public health itself.

Cons of Recommendation:
Current program lacks a component in Sexual and Reproductive Health

Technology/Human Resource Impact:
None

Committee Recommendation:
That the Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies should develop and administer a minor in Public Health in collaboration with the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Communication and Journalism, Economics, English, Geography and Anthropology, Kinesiology, Management and Marketing (HCA), Mathematics, Nursing, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Psychology, Political Science, Social Work, and Sociology.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 9 for to 0 against on January 31, 2017 (Date)

Recommends that:

That the Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies should develop and administer a minor in Public Health (Minor in Public Health, Liberal Arts, code: xxx-xxx) in collaboration with the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Communication and Journalism, Economics, English, Geography and Anthropology, Kinesiology, Management and Marketing (HCA), Mathematics, Nursing, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Psychology, Political Science, Social Work, and Sociology.

Implementation Date: 17/18 catalog

Signed: _______________________________________

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office