

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

Considering the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, UWEC Senate Executive Committee suspended the Service-Learning Requirement for graduating seniors during the Spring 2020 academic semester. Given the continuous disruption to service-learning opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 for the current 2020 – 2021 academic year, the Academic Policies Committee is proposing the suspension of the service-learning requirement for the Winterim 2021 academic semester for graduating seniors.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Credit Bearing Service-Learning courses provide students the opportunity to receive the credit anyway without service-learning taking place due to COVID-19 and restrictions.
2. Students wanting to complete a Non-Credit Bearing Service-Learning option should be provided a waiver (especially for graduates) to ensure equity for all students. Debate on whether waiver should be for Fall 2020 only, Fall & Winterim, or entire academic year.
3. There are over a 100 different non-credit bearing service-learning options currently available during the pandemic that students can take advantage of that follow current COVID-19 restrictions. Students should do due diligence to explore these opportunities.
4. Emotional state of students and type of students impacted by the uncertainty of the service-learning requirement.
5. Impact on faculty workload regarding the service-learning requirement.
6. Impact on Associate Dean's workload regarding the service-learning requirement waiver.

Pros of Recommendation:

Alleviates undergraduate students who are more stressed and concerned about a variety of things, including their family and friends during a pandemic. Alleviates workload concerns for faculty, administration, and community partners.

Cons of Recommendation:

none

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the suspension of the service-learning requirement for the Winterim 2021 academic semester for graduating seniors.

Graduating seniors completing credit bearing service-learning (S-L) courses that are unable to complete the service-learning component of the course will still receive the S-L credit.

Graduating seniors unable to complete non-credit bearing service-learning (S-L) projects, will have S-L requirement waived.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 8 for to 1 against on November 17th, 2020 (Date)

Recommends that:

The suspension of the service-learning requirement for the Winterim 2021 academic semester for graduating seniors.

Graduating seniors completing credit bearing service-learning (S-L) courses that are unable to complete the service-learning component of the course will still receive the S-L credit.

Graduating seniors unable to complete non-credit bearing service-learning (S-L) projects, will have S-L requirement waived.

Implementation Date: 20/21 catalog



Signed:
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office