University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

The Department of Political Science requests approval to establish a new minor in Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusivity - Liberal Arts. During the past five years, the number of Criminal Justice majors has increased from approximately 230 to more than 275. During that same time, the number of students creating their own Topical Minor focused on criminal justice has seemingly remained steady, if not increasing to more than three dozen (this is an estimate based on our anecdotal experience meeting with interested students and helping them set up a Topical Minor; again, discipline-specific Topical Minor numbers are not tracked). The consistent growth in the number of Criminal Justice majors and Topical Minors suggests that current and prospective students are drawn to the content matter of discipline as well as our program at UWEC. At a time of increased awareness about issues of diversity, equity, and inclusivity within the criminal justice system in the U.S., it is important that coursework and academic offerings are geared towards dynamic and ever-changing issues impacting the criminal justice system. The curriculum for the minor consists of 24 credits.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Two required courses that were amended/created for the minor.
2. How were electives determined for the minor?
3. Can current topical minors switch to this minor?
4. Utilization of “inclusivity” vs. “inclusion”.
5. Negative impact of minor on existing number majors.
6. Do the required courses discuss the outcome of understanding legal and policy decisions thoroughly since content in electives may not go cover the topic?

Pros of Recommendation:

New minor is available to all students on campus. New minor will allow for better tracking of the number of students taking Criminal Justice courses for purposes of completing a minor program. No additional resources are needed to deliver the new minor.

Cons of Recommendation:

None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the creation of a new minor in Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusivity - Liberal Arts.
Minor in Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusivity

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 10 for to 0 against on April 13, 2021 (Date)

Recommends that:
The creation of a new minor in Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusivity - Liberal Arts, starting 2022-2023 AY:

Implementation Date: 22/23 catalog

Signed: __________________________________
   Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office