University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

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

The Public Health and Environmental Studies (PHES) program is requesting the establishment of an academic department for the next possible catalog. The rationale for department designation includes the program’s significant change and growth in course offerings, majors, minors, and certificates since its inception in spring 2009. Increasing campus visibility along with the creation of a new “Masters of Public Health” degree reflects the willingness of faculty and the administration to take PHES to the next level—providing strong offerings for both undergraduate and graduate students. Establishment of the department would assist with both student and faculty recruitment; enhance communication with internal and outside stakeholder (e.g., accreditation organizations).

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Functional and fiscal impact on university. Already functions as a department within College of Arts & Sciences. No additional funding will be provided for FTE, will have to go through request for position process.
3. PHES consulted with “Social Sciences” within College of A & S and outside agencies.
4. Support for designation at the College of A & S level (unanimous at College Curriculum Committee and overwhelming support at the college level).

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Supported by program faculty and administration.
2. The proposal was also supported at the College of Arts & Sciences level.
3. Departmental status reflects positively to external stakeholders for visibility, recruitment, and accreditation purposes.

Cons of Recommendation:
None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:
None

Committee Recommendation:
The committee approved the establishment of the academic department: Department of Public Health and Environmental Studies for the next possible catalog, starting 2023-2024 AY.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 9 for to 0 against on April 19, 2022 (Date)

Recommends that:

The establishment of the academic department: Department of Public Health and Environmental Studies for the next possible catalog, starting 2023-2024 AY. Due to the timing of request and subsequent approval of motion, changes to catalog can’t be made during the 2022-2023 AY, however the program/department will be permitted to use their new name/status for purposes other than the catalog.

Implementation Date: 23/24 catalog

Signed: ______________________________________
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office