

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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November 20, 2009

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate

FROM: Carlyn Morenus, Chairperson, University Curriculum Committee

RE: Executive Summary of Proposal for New Minor in Civic Engagement and Responsibility

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to add a new Minor in Civic Engagement and Responsibility. Two new courses have been proposed and were approved for the new minor. Letters of support from the departments whose courses are included as options for the minor are attached to the proposal.

Lance Lippert from the School of Communication will be the advisor for the new minor. Within the proposal there is a reasonable rationale for implementation of the new minor, including:

- The values and learning outcomes are consistent with the values of Illinois State University. The University promotes active learning experiences through which students may gain an awareness and understanding of civic engagement as a lifelong responsibility. Furthermore, the University encourages faculty and staff “to serve as engaged civic leaders and role models promoting the quality of life for all citizens through collaborative and individual action.”
- Research indicates: (1) that students are seeking opportunities for civic engagement and learning about civic responsibility, (2) institutions of higher education are underprepared to meet the learning needs of students in this area, and (3) employers across career sectors are seeking students with heightened civic awareness and experience.
- This minor will help centralize various civic engagement components across campus such as the American Democracy Project and other service learning projects.
- This minor, in unison with their majors, will further prepare students for their careers and lives as active, responsible citizens within their communities.

Funding for the development, implementation, and support of the minor comes from a State Farm grant specifically for this purpose. Therefore, the first two years of the minor’s existence will require no funding from ISU monies.

The University Curriculum Committee supports adding the new Minor in Civic Engagement and Responsibility.

Attachments