

UNIVERSITY SENATE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK


Introduced by: UAC

Date: May 13, 2013

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A MINOR IN SUSTAINABILITY

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT:

1. The University Senate approve the attached proposal to create a minor in Sustainability, as approved by the Undergraduate Academic Council.
2. The new minor take effect and added to the list of approved minors in the Undergraduate Bulletin beginning in Fall 2013 and continuing thereafter.
3. This bill be forwarded to the President for approval.

University at Albany – State University of New York	
College of Arts and Sciences	Course and Program Action Form
Proposal No. <u>13-019</u>	
Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Course Proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program Proposal	
Please mark all that apply:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Minor	Revision of: <input type="checkbox"/> Number <input type="checkbox"/> Description
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Listing	<input type="checkbox"/> Title <input type="checkbox"/> Prerequisites
<input type="checkbox"/> Shared-Resources Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Credits
<input type="checkbox"/> Deactivate/Activate Course (boldface & underline as appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Department: <u>Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences</u> Effective Semester, Year: <u>Fall, 2013</u>	
Course Number Current: _____ New: _____ Credits: <u>18</u>	
Course Title: <u>Interdisciplinary Minor in Sustainability</u>	
Course Description to appear in Bulletin: A minimum of 18 graduation credits (9 of which must be in coursework at or above the 300 level), including at least 3 credits in each of three categories: (i) Natural/Physical Sciences - AENV 105, ABIO 102, ABIO 120, ABIO 222, AATM 304, ABIO 311, ABIO 327, ABIO 427, AENV 450 (ii) Social Sciences/Humanities – AECO 110, AHIS 276, 277, AHIS 317,329 (iii) Planning -- AGOG 125, AGOG 201, AGOG 220, AGOG 225, APLN 430, APLN432. Students in any major may pursue a minor in sustainability.	
Prerequisites statement to be appended to description in Bulletin: Prerequisites for any courses within the minor must be satisfied before a student may enroll in the course, unless the prerequisite is waived by the instructor.	
If S/U is to be designated as the only grading system in the course, check here: <input type="checkbox"/>	
This course is (will be) cross listed with (i.e., CAS ###): _____	
This course is (will be) a shared-resources course with (i.e., CAS ###): _____	
Explanation of proposal: Global crises in the environment (e.g., climate change, extinction), economies (e.g., global recession, energy), and human welfare (e.g., population growth, food, urbanization) pose critical challenges in both the developed and developing worlds. The science of sustainability has emerged as a response to these challenges, and academic institutions throughout the nation are developing undergraduate majors and minors, and graduate programs to teach sustainability. SUNY has committed significant resources to sustainability as academic and research pursuits, and as an approach to campus governance. The University at Albany has been developing a framework for sustainable campus management and pedagogy since 2006. Sustainability as a discipline recognizes that modern problems are complex and are usually driven by non-linear forcing functions. Addressing these problems requires multidisciplinary approaches. The proposed minor creates a curriculum that will help students understand what sustainability is and how it relates to particular disciplines and areas of interest. Students will take courses with sustainability content in several disciplines to gain perspective on how sustainability is perceived in each.	
Other departments or schools which offer similar or related courses and which have certified that this proposal does not overlap their offering:	
REVISED 4/18/2013 KCW	
Chair of Proposing Department (TYPE NAME/SIGN) _____ Date _____	
Christopher Thorncroft  3/14/13	
Approved by Chair(s) of Department(s) having cross-listed course(s) [Copy of e-mail approval on following page.] _____ Date _____	Dean of College _____ Date _____
Chair of Academic Programs Committee _____ Date _____	Dean of Undergraduate or Graduate Studies _____ Date _____

Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

College of Arts & Sciences

Earth Science 351

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PH: 518-442-4556 FX: 518-442-5825

www.atmos.albany.edu

11th December 2012

Dear Gary

This letter is written in support of the proposal for an interdisciplinary Minor in Sustainability. I am 100% behind this Minor and look forward to making it a success.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Thorncroft (Professor and Chair)

Geography and Planning

Gary,

As Chair of Geography and Planning, I support this minor as per the attached proposal. Thanks for all your hard work on this – much appreciated!

Regards,

Kate

History

Memo:

To: Kendra Smith-Howard

From: Richard Hamm, Chair History

Re: Sustainability Minor

Date: December 7, 2012

As Chair of the department, reflecting the views of the undergraduate committee, I write to say the department welcomes the inclusion of inclusion of AHIS 276, 277, 317, and 329 to the proposed minor in sustainability. Although not all of these courses are offered every term, I believe they are offered with enough frequency (at least one per academic year) to be of service to the minor. The faculty who teach the History courses listed in the proposal have been contacted and have agreed to allow students pursuing the minor into their classes (subject to meeting any prerequisites or obtaining permission of the instructor to waive such requirements). In the future, relevant courses in global environmental history developed by Mitch Aso should be added to the offerings of the minor, but since they are currently still topics courses, they are not included in this proposal and the department would support the inclusion of those course also. We hope the new minor thrives.

Philosophy Department

From: jon.mandle@gmail.com [mailto:jon.mandle@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Jon Mandle
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2012 11:52 AM
To: Smith-Howard, Kendra
Subject: Re: Sustainability Minor

Dear Kendra -

As chair of the Philosophy Department, I approve of the new Sustainability Minor. We are glad to include Phi.340 and Phi.474 in the course offerings. The program does not overlap with our major or minor. We look forward to working with you in helping to make the minor a great success.

-Jon Mandle

Biology Department

Gary,

The Interdisciplinary minor in Sustainability as outlined in your proposal will have a minimal impact on Biology, and, therefore, I have no objection to its implementation.

I will make a few points.

- 1) As I pointed out previously, most of the courses in Biology listed have prerequisites that would limit access to non-science students.
- 2) As we agree that double counting of courses should not be allowed, since ABIO402 is a required course for Biology majors, they will not be able to use it for the minor.
- 3) Since most of these courses are in Biology and I assume the other fields were not designed specifically as Sustainability courses, I think the minor would be immeasurably improved if a one or two credit seminar course or small lecture course were added for seniors in the major that integrated the relevant information from the other courses to help students see a coherent picture. A seminar course would be ideal because it would encourage each student think about the integration and to contribute the information to others that might have taken a different spectrum of courses.

Richard S. Zitomer

Professor and Chair

Department of Biological Sciences

University at Albany/SUNY

Economics Department

From: Daniel, Betty C
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 1:54 PM
To: Kleppel, Gary S
Cc: Dieffenbach, Bruce C; Fogarty, Richard; Sattinger, Michael J
Subject: Sustainability Minor

Dear Gary,

I support adding Economics 110 to the courses for the sustainability minor. I believe that Economics is essential in understanding sustainability and am pleased that our Department is able to participate.

Best Regards,
Betty

Betty C. Daniel
Professor and Chair
Department of Economics