Expansion of the Minor in Informatics

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the attached proposal to expand the Minor in Informatics to include three cognate areas of Criminal Justice, Geography and Communications, be approved by the University Senate effective for the Spring 2008 term.

2. That the bulleted description be changed to:

   INFORMATICS  A minimum of 18 graduation credits. Students may select one of four Informatics minor concentrations:

   (1) General:  IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, ITM 215; and any two courses from among I CSI 203, 204, 205, 300, IST 423, 424, ITM 330. This option is open to students with any major EXCEPT a Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Major in Information Science (i.e., the IST major).

   (2) Communication:  IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, and ITM 215; and any two courses from among COM 369, 375, 430Z, and 465. This option is only open to students with a Communication major.

   (3) Criminal Justice:  IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, and ITM 215; and any two courses from among CRJ 393, 399, and 692 (this course is open only to majors enrolled in the combined B.A./M.A. program in CRJ). This option is only open to students with a Criminal Justice major.

   (4) Geography:  IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, and ITM 215; and any two courses from among GOG 385, 406, 414, and 485. This option is only open to students with a Geography major.

3. That this proposal be forwarded to the Officer in Charge for approval.
Proposal for a Minor in Informatics

Rationale

We propose a Minor in Informatics for students interested in the role of computing and information and the application of technology in their primary fields of study. As that implicit definition of informatics suggests, the intended audience is students in any major outside the proposing units – Computer Science (CSI), Informatics (INF), Information Studies (IST), and Information Technology Management (ITM) – of the College of Computing and Information and the School of Business.

More generally, the vast growth in importance of information technology in virtually all disciplines and workplaces has created a need for many students to have more than a rudimentary introduction to the use of that technology. This minor will provide broadened exposure in information organization, retrieval, and management; programming, and networking and systems concepts; Web technologies; and databases and data modelling. It also provides some depth in more advanced courses of the students’ choosing.

Structure

The embedded chart (p. 2) shows the proposed minor. It includes a required core (12-13 credits) of four courses in online information retrieval (IST 100), computer programming (CSI 101, 110, 201, or ITM 215), Web and systems technologies (INF 201), and databases and data modelling (ITM 332). CSI 110 and INF 201 were recently approved and added to the Master File of Registered Courses; and a proposal for ITM 332 is under development and review within the Department and School. Bulletin or draft descriptions for all courses are attached.

Beyond this, students will choose either a general or cognate option (6 credits). Initially, students will choose the general option: any two courses from among eight in CSI, IST, and ITM (all have a prerequisite or are 300/400-level offerings). These courses offer more advanced instruction in the use of computing, information, and technology that is generally transferable to or applicable in other fields and disciplines.

In addition, we anticipate adding over time a cognate option, in which participating Departments or Schools identify two advanced courses that will demonstrate and apply these technology tools for their respective majors. At least one of these courses must be offered by the major Department. We have had exploratory discussions to date with faculty from Art, Communication, Criminal Justice, Geography, Mathematics, Music, and Political Science. Based on further conversations with Chairs, we anticipate that at least three and perhaps as many as five will develop proposals and participate in the cognate option for their majors. (If separate governance approval of those is required, they will come forward as addenda to this proposal as they are received.)
Informatics Minor

CSI 101/110*  
201/ITM215

IST 100X

INF 201*

ITM 331

2 courses from among:  
CSI 203, 204,  
205, 300Z; IST  
423, 424; ITM  
330

1 IT course

Dept course:  
ART/MUS, BIO, COM,  
CRJ, GOG, MAT, POL

General option  
Cognate option

* New course  
** Cannot double-count with major
Impact

Based on anecdotal evidence from our students in the College of Computing and Information, especially those in the Interdisciplinary B.A. in Information Science, and in the School of Business, we believe that there will be demand for this minor from three sources: (1) students currently in the Information Science major (Interdisciplinary B.A.) who may convert their minors to majors and elect the new INF minor; (2) students in many other majors (especially in arts, humanities, and social sciences) who will add this new INF minor as a credential for either graduate school or immediate employment; and eventually (3) students in the cognate majors that choose to offer an informatics option. Although we cannot quantify it, our most-likely scenario is one in which the number of majors in the IST B.A. declines and the overall FTE enrollment in CSI, INF, IST, and ITM increases. The four Department Chairs and respective Deans are prepared to meet this demand, beginning with INF 201 and ITM 332 (see below).

Implementation

We are ready to implement this minor for Fall 2006. The three new courses (CSI 110, INF 201, ITM 332) are in preparation and can be offered in 2006-2007. INF 201 is arguably the key initial offering, since the first students likely to choose this new minor may already have taken IST 100 and a programming course; they will see INF 201 as the logical next step. INF is already planning to offer this course in Fall 2006.

General oversight for this minor will remain with the faculty working group that developed it: Seth Chaiken (CSI); Jakov Crnkovic (ITM, INF); Stephen DeLong (INF, IST), convenor; Sue Faerman (PAD, INF); Sanjay Goel (ITM, INF); Tom Mackey (IST, INF); and Jennifer Powers (IST, INF). Operational and administrative functions will be handled by Stephen DeLong, with support from the Dean’s Office in the College of Computing and Information.

Proposed Bulletin Description [general option only]

Informatics A minimum of 18 graduation credits including I CSI 101 or 110 or 201 or B ITM 215; I IST 100, I INF 201, and B ITM 331; and any two courses from among I CSI 203, 204, 205, 300, I IST 423, 424, B ITM 330.

This description will be amended as Departments formally decide to support the cognate option.
Proposal for REVISION of the Minor in Informatics - 4/25/07

A minor in Informatics was proposed by faculty from Computer Science, Informatics, Information Studies, and Information Technology Management, and approved in Spring 2006 (see attached). The original proposal was for a general option – four core courses and two upper-division courses – that would be available to students in any major outside the College of Computing and Information. The exclusion of non-CCI majors was explicit in the original proposal, but was inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin description. We now wish to narrow that restriction to cover only IST majors (i.e., those in the Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Major with a Concentration in Information Science). The language under the General option (below) – and the logic – are parallel to that for excluding a major in Mathematics from declaring a minor in Statistics. (Students in the B.S. in Computer Science already have an approved second field, so there is no reason to exclude them from the INF minor; students in the B.A. in CSI could choose this minor, since it does not have the content overlap that the IST degree has.)

We also indicated that several additional Departments were considering cognate options, which we are now bringing forward for action. In this version of the minor, majors in a participating Department or School would complete the four core courses from the general option and two additional advanced courses, identified by their major Department, that demonstrate and apply technology tools in their respective disciplines. The two advanced courses, at least one of which must be offered by the major Department, cannot double-count for the major.

We now propose to expand the Minor in Informatics by adding cognate options designed for (and restricted to) students with majors in Communication, Criminal Justice, and Geography. A letter from the respective Chair or Dean of each unit is attached.

Proposed Bulletin Description – revised

Informatics A minimum of 18 graduation credits. Students may select one of four Informatics minor variations:

(1) General: IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, B ITM 215; and any two courses from among CSI 203, 204, 205, 300, IST 423, 424, B ITM 330. This option is open to students with any major EXCEPT a Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Major in Information Science (i.e., the IST major).

(2) Communication: IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, and B ITM 215; and any two courses from among COM 369, 375, 430Z, and 465. This option is only open to students with a Communication major.

(3) Criminal Justice: IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, and B ITM 215; and any two courses from among CRJ 393, 399, and 692 (this course is open only to majors enrolled in the combined B.A./M.A. program in CRJ). This option is only open to students with a Criminal Justice major.

(4) Geography: IST 100; INF 201; ITM 331; any one course from among CSI 101, 110, 201, and B ITM 215; and any two courses from among GOG 385, 406, 414, and 485. This option is only open to students with a Geography major.

All other aspects of the structure and administration of the minor remain as in the original proposal.
Date: March 16, 2007

To: Stephen DeLong
    Acting Chair, Department of Informatics

    Jennifer Powers
    Acting Assistant Dean
    College of Computing and Information

From: Teresa M. Harrison
    Department of Communication

Subject: IT Minor with a cognate in Communication

I'm writing to follow up on our discussion about the IT minor with a cognate in Communication. The minor includes two courses designated by the cognate department (i.e., Communication).

On directive from our Department, Prof. Senem Ganev and I have discussed the issue of which courses to designate and have settled on asking students to take two of the following four:

- Com 369 Theories of Organizations
- Com 375 Computer Mediated Communication
- Com 4302 Communication on the Internet
- Com 465 Technology in Contemporary Organizational Life

Please also understand that only students with permission numbers can register for upper level courses in communication. So, students minorng in IT with a cognate in communication should be advised to visit the Department of Communication and obtain a permission number from our department secretary, Ms. Debbie Bouska, who can be reached at 442-4871 or dbes39@albany.edu.

I think this is everything you need, but do let me know if you have further questions. We support the IT minor with a cognate in communication and look forward to working with students who choose this option.