Suspend Admissions to Major and Honors Program in Judaic Studies

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That this takes effect no later than spring semester, 2011.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to President George M. Philip for approval.
### University at Albany – State University of New York

#### College of Arts and Sciences

**Course and Program Action Form**

**Proposal No.** 10-090

Please check one:  
- [ ] Course Proposal  
- [X] Program Proposal

Please mark all that apply:

- [ ] New Course
- [ ] Cross-Listing
- [ ] Shared-Resources Course
- [X] Deactivate/Activate Course (boldface & underline as appropriate)
- [ ] Suspend Admissions to Major and Honors Program in Judaic Studies

**Department:** Judaic Studies  
**Effective Semester, Year:** Fall, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Current:</th>
<th>New:</th>
<th>Credits:</th>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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**Course Description to appear in Bulletin:**

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**Prerequisites statement to be appended to description in Bulletin:**

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**If S/U is to be designated as the only grading system in the course, check here:**

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**This course is (will be) cross listed with (i.e., CAS ###):**

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**This course is (will be) a shared-resources course with (i.e., CAS ###):**

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**Explanation of proposal:**

See page 2 for proposal to suspend admissions to the major and honors program in Judaic Studies effective as soon as possible

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**Other departments or schools which offer similar or related courses and which have certified that this proposal does not overlap their offering:**

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**Chair of Proposing Department**  
Barry Trachtenberg  
**Date** 9-22-10

**Approved by Chair(s) of Departments having cross-listed course(s) [Copy of e-mail approval on following page.]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Dean of College</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Hamm</td>
<td>9-29-10</td>
<td>Gregory Stevens</td>
<td>11/1/10/12/2/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chair of Academic Programs Committee**  
Janna Harton  
**Date** 10/29/10

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As Chair of the History Department which has a good number of cross-listed courses with Judaic Studies, I approve of these necessary changes.

Signed

Richard F. Hamm
Professor of History and Public Policy
Chair, History Department
University at Albany, SUNY
Social Science 145
518 442 5305; fax 518 442 5301
hamm@albany.edu
PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND ADMISSIONS TO THE MAJOR AND HONORS PROGRAM IN JUDAIC STUDIES

The College of Arts and Sciences is hereby formally requesting that admissions to the major and honors program referenced above be suspended as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the Spring 2011 semester. The reasons are as follows:

For many years, the Judaic Studies major was supported by a teaching staff of 4-5 full time faculty members located within the Judaic Studies Department, plus several adjunct instructors and affiliate faculty. In spite of a vigorous program that offered a wide-range of undergraduate courses and which were often fully enrolled, enrollment in the major has been consistently low and declining. For example:

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This change has coincided with a sharp decline in the faculty over the same period. Since 2003, the full-time faculty in Judaic Studies has decreased (due to retirements and transfers) from 5 to 1 (Prof. Barry Trachtenberg) plus a full time Hebrew lecturer, adjuncts and affiliates. Given the low enrollments of the major and the current fiscal situation, it is very unlikely that additional faculty lines in Judaic Studies will be allocated in the foreseeable future.

In the Fall of 2010, the Judaic Studies Department is being reconfigured to an academic program that will be housed in the History Department. Professor Trachtenberg’s line has been transferred to that Department and will oversee the JST program and continue to advise current majors as well as current and future minors in JST and HEB. All 6 current majors are on track to graduate by the end of the current academic year. This change to an academic program is done in the interest of securing and maintaining a strong presence for the JST and HEB minors into the future.

It is the plan of the JST program, with the assistance of the Center for Jewish Studies and support of the College of Arts and Sciences, to create an inter-disciplinary major in Judaic Studies in the future. Comprised of faculty housed in departments throughout the University, such a program would mirror the state of most Jewish Studies majors in North American universities. The Center for Jewish Studies, along with the assistance of the College of Arts and Sciences has been active for several years trying to raise the funds necessary to endow professorships in Jewish Studies. With the current financial uncertainty projected to continue, it is unlikely that such gifts to the University will be forthcoming in the near future.

It is the assessment of Professor Trachtenberg and the College that the current major is at present unsustainable. It is unfair to accept additional majors into the JST program, as they will be unable to avail themselves of the range of faculty expertise necessary to be trained in Judaic Studies.