November 11, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Potchen, Chairperson
   Executive Committee of Academic Council (ECAC)

FROM: Linda Good, Chairperson, University Committee on Curriculum (UCC)

RE: Request to Enable departments to offer a minor in a field of study where no major is offered and eliminate the requirement that the minor must carry the same field-of-study name as the major (Proposal 1)

The University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) made and approved (April 24, 2008) a recommendation to enable departments to offer a minor in a field of study where no major is offered and eliminate the requirement that the minor must carry the same field-of-study name as the major. The recommendation was reviewed by the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP) and based on discussions at the November 6, 2008 UCAP meeting, the UCAP unanimously endorsed the UCC recommendation.

The UCC submits the following motion for consideration by Academic Council:

Motion for Academic Council

Enable departments to offer a minor in a field of study where no major is offered and eliminate the requirement that the minor must carry the same field-of-study name as the major.

Rationale

Minors are only able to be offered in fields of study where a major is currently offered and must carry the same name as the related major.

“Minors must carry the same name as the major.” - Guidelines for Academic Minors, http://www.reg.msu.edu/Read/UCC/minorguidelines.pdf

The current practice limits a department’s ability to offer a minor, since it is not possible to offer a minor if no major is offered. There are a number of fields of study at Michigan State University that do not and will not offer a major, but where a minor is a desirable and appropriate academic offering.

Removing the limitation would allow departments to develop, propose, and offer minors in a wider variety of fields of study than currently possible, both in fields of study where no major exists as well as in fields of study where the name of the major is quite broad. For example, History might like to offer a Minor in Southeast Asian History in addition to a History Minor.

There are no existing programs that would be negatively affected. Because of current policy, there have not been any minors proposed that do not carry the name of a major in the same field of study.

Attachments: Proposal and attachments

Cc: Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services
    Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator
    Doug McKenna, Associate Registrar for Certification
    Sekhar Chivukula, Chairperson, University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP)