

PROPOSED SPECIAL PROGRAM: GLOBAL STUDIES MINOR

Submitted by: Warren K. Wray, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

To: Frank Blum, President, Missouri S&T Faculty Senate

Overview and Academic Rationale

Background

A multi-disciplinary undergraduate minor program in global studies is proposed to help address a national priority identified by the National Science Foundation:

“For the United States to remain at the forefront of world science and technology, it needs an educated science and engineering workforce capable of operating in the international research environment and a global market.”

This proposal was submitted to the Provost’s office for consideration and for approval by the Faculty Senate by:

1. Dr. Neil Anderson, Geological Engineering
2. Dr. Joel Burken, Environmental Engineering
3. Dr. Curt Elmore, Geological Engineering
4. Dr. Bill Fahrenholtz, Ceramic Engineering
5. Dr. Julie Gallaway, Economics
6. Dr. Jim Martin, Psychology
7. Dr. Melanie Mormile, Biological Sciences
8. Dr. Jeff Smith, Ceramic Engineering

Academic Rationale

Students who complete this minor will have an increased awareness of the society, culture, technical issues, and/or language of at least one country other than the United States prior to the completion of their Missouri S&T undergraduate experience. This awareness will aid in the preparation of Missouri S&T students to be successful in an increasingly global workforce. Any Missouri S&T student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program is eligible for the Global Studies minor program, which consists of 12 credit hours from an approved list of classes and at least 2 weeks of experience in a foreign country acquired during a Missouri S&T class or research project, an approved Missouri S&T extracurricular activity, and/or an approved Missouri S&T study abroad activity.

Program Academic Aspects

The Global Studies Minor requires 12 hours of coursework and an international experience. Specific details on these requirements are provided below.

Courses

The Global Studies Minor requires at least one three hour course “focusing” on the society, culture, and/or language of a foreign country. Representative courses include those that meet this criterion from the Arts, Languages, Humanities, or Social Sciences.

The other nine hours within the minor may come from any course that includes at least 25 percent international studies content as determined by the Advisory Committee. The Committee of Program Representatives (hereafter referred to as the Advisory Committee) will develop and maintain a list of approved courses that satisfy the “focus” or “international studies content” requirements. “International studies content” is defined as course content addressing countries or regions outside of the United States. “International studies content” does not include content that is universal but rather that which addresses specific countries or regions outside of the United States. To satisfy the multi-disciplinary aspect of the minor, no more than six hours may be taken from a single Missouri S&T degree program.

Any Missouri S&T faculty member may nominate (in writing to the Advisory Committee) specific courses for inclusion in the minor program. The Advisory Committee will also consider courses reported in the Missouri S&T Undergraduate Course Catalog for addition to the list of approved courses. The Advisory Committee will develop and maintain a written policy for reviewing courses nominated for inclusion on the minor course list. The Advisory Committee will also periodically review previously approved courses to ensure that program requirements are met by these courses.

The initial list of courses recommended by the Advisory Committee shall be provided to the Campus Curriculum Committee for review and approval via the standard “DC” form process. Modifications to the list of approved courses may be proposed by the Advisory Committee. As for other curriculum changes, these changes will utilize the standard “CC” form and process (approval by the Campus Curriculum Committee, Provost and Faculty Senate). Changes in the lists are inevitable and the Advisory Committee will provide its recommendations for curriculum changes to the Campus Curriculum Committee on either a biannual or annual frequency.

International Experience

The minor requires personal experience in a foreign country. Students will participate in one or more Missouri S&T-sponsored trips to a foreign country for no less than 14 days total. The trips may be a part of Missouri S&T classes and/or an OURE project-related trip, an extracurricular activity including Missouri S&T’s Engineers Without Borders field trips, and/or Missouri S&T sanctioned study abroad. The Advisory Committee will develop and maintain a written policy for reviewing and approving Missouri S&T-sponsored activities proposed to satisfy the International Experience requirement. Students shall receive approval in advance for their International Experience.

Advisory Committee Function, Membership and Election

Advisory Committee Function

A Global Studies Advisory Committee will be organized following the approval of this proposal. One of the charges of the committee will be to advise undergraduate students pursuing their Global Studies minor. Additional duties of the committee include the identification of courses for inclusion to the curriculum and the approval of international activities consistent with the Global Studies Minor.

Membership

Members of the Advisory Committee will consist of eleven full-time, ranked faculty according to the following distribution from participating academic departments:

- Four members from the departments that are included in the Engineering Discipline Specific Curriculum Committee (DSCC);
- Two members from the Science DSCC;
- Two members from Social Sciences DSCC;
- Two members from Arts and Humanities DSCC; and
- One at-large member.

Nomination and Election of Advisory Committee Representatives

Nominations will be solicited by the office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs in August of each year, except during the first year of the program, during which nomination and election of committee representatives will occur following approval of the program. Individuals initially elected to serve as representatives will thus serve longer terms, with the exception noted below. As indicated in the Faculty Bylaws, election of members of the advisory committee will be by and from members of the faculty. Self-nominations are permitted. Following the standard practice of the Rules, Procedure & Agenda committee, the names of all nominees submitted will be on the ballot that is forwarded to the faculty; none will be removed. The role of the office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs will be solely to administer the process.

The election of committee members will be conducted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs in September of each year. All faculty members from the academic departments associated with the Engineering DSCC will vote for four representatives. The four individuals receiving the highest vote totals will be elected as the representatives. An analogous procedure will be used to elect representatives from the Science, Social Science, and Arts and Humanities Departments, with each of these discipline areas electing two representatives. The at-large member will be the nominee receiving the greatest number of votes.

Advisory Committee members shall serve for a term of two years. Committee members may be re-elected and may serve consecutive terms. The terms of the five of first committee members will be one year, in order to establish a process whereby one half of the committee membership is elected annually. The Program Leader will determine which five initial committee members will serve a single year term with balance among the various disciplines.

Program Leader

The Advisory Committee will elect its own chairperson who will also serve as the Program Leader. The Program Leader will have ultimate responsible for maintaining lists of approved courses and international experiences. The Program Leader will convene the committee when appropriate for establishment and maintenance of lists of approved courses, to discuss advising issues that arise, and to conduct other business pertinent to the program.

The Program Leader is the only designated signature authority for the program and is responsible for working with the Registrar to see that “Global Studies Minor” is noted appropriately on the student transcript. The Program Leader also has the responsibility to respond to inquiries regarding the program, to serve as a “point of contact” for the program, and to interface with the Provost’s Office and Campus Curriculum Committee, as required.