

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Review of a New Minor in Global Health Studies,
University of Iowa
Date: April 10, 2000

Recommended Action:

Review the report on a new minor in Global Health Studies in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Iowa and refer to the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) and the Board Office for review and recommendations.

Executive Summary:

The College of Liberal Arts is requesting that a new minor in Global Health Studies be established. The fifteen (15) credit hour program, to be administered by the Office of International Programs, builds upon the existing disciplinary offerings in the College of Liberal Arts and the new College of Public Health, and the success of the existing Certificate in Global Health program. The new minor would be a model for interdisciplinary and international studies.

It is anticipated that the new minor would offer a variety of research opportunities for undergraduates and would be a means for students to explore careers in health related fields. While three new courses are proposed for the minor, there are no substantive costs associated with the new minor as current faculty would offer them. Any marginal costs have already been negotiated in the context of the renewal grant proposal for the Department of Education's National Resource Center.

The new minor is consistent with the goals of the College of Liberal Arts' strategic plan, specifically Goal IV, "initiatives that support international and interdisciplinary education." It is also consistent with the University's strategic plan to encourage international study and the Board of Regents' Key Result Area 3.0, Diversity.

Background:

The University of Iowa currently has a Global Health Studies Program. The certificate offered through this program requires 25 semester hours of core and elective courses. The proposed minor would require 15 semester hours in designated Global Health courses, many of which would be cross-listed in traditional courses such as history, anthropology, and geography.

The University projects that the minor will attract 25-40 students per course and will hold more appeal than the certificate. The minor, according to the proposal, "will be a pathway into the health professions," as well as an interdisciplinary bridge to numerous professional tracks.

A detailed description of the SUI proposal for the new minor is found in the Regent Exhibit Book.

Analysis:

Board of Regent Procedural Guide (Section 6.05, pages VI-15 to VI-18) requires proposals for new programs to address the criteria of need, duplication, quality, and costs.

Relative to **need**, the University's rationale is that the curriculum of the new minor would provide international overviews of processes and problems associated with the maintenance and provision of health. Students will be able to explore health issues and disease treatment strategies in diverse social, political, cultural, and economic settings. The program would offer study abroad opportunities, as well as numerous interdisciplinary opportunities to do research, thus supporting Goal 1B of the College of Liberal Arts' strategic plan, "develop students' understanding of and appreciation for the processes of research, scholarship, and artistic creation."

The SUI proposal includes enrollment statistics from existing Global Health related courses. The University anticipates that the new minor would, in time, develop three new courses: (1) Tobacco, Politics, and Health; (2) Disease Diffusion and Preventive Health Practices; and (3) Social Welfare: A World View. It is anticipated that each of these would have 25-40 students.

The proposal also included a brief discussion on employment opportunities. For post-graduate studies, a student with this minor could consider medical anthropology or medical sociology. The College of Public Health has indicated that this minor would be a suitable preparation for the Master's degree in Public Health. Students with this minor would find it an advantage in such fields as social work, psychology, occupational and physical therapy, nursing, and education. These fields are witnessing increased involvement with refugees, immigrants, and migrant adults and their families.

Upon investigation of **duplication**, the University reported that the University of Northern Iowa offers a "Global Health Certificate" (16 hours) and a "Global Health Concentration" (10 hours). Discussions were held and correspondence is provided from the Provost's office at UNI supporting the new minor at SUI and suggesting ways that interinstitutional cooperation can be carried out. Exploration is continuing regarding offering three courses in common. One of these, International Health, is already jointly taught. There is no corresponding program at Iowa State University, but a course on Global Change contains a section on global change and human health. Grinnell College offers an Environmental Studies concentration, but no courses with a significant health emphasis. Faculty and administrators at UNI and Grinnell have welcomed the idea of establishing shared study abroad sites. In summary, the proposed new minor is not duplicative. A dividend of the exploration of duplication has resulted in additional collaborative efforts.

The criteria of **quality** is addressed through the listing of the courses which students will take. The proposal lists a large number of courses which students can take. Additional courses will be available now. The faculty teaching these courses and the proposed new courses are regular university faculty.

The University indicates that there are no new **costs** associated with the new minor, which would begin in Fall of 2001. The University points out that virtually all of the proposed core courses are now available in a variety of disciplines. The faculty will teach these courses as part of their regular loads. Those who will be developing the new courses will be compensated through summer salary. General expenses for new and revised course materials are covered, to some degree, through external resources (in this case, through a Department of Education grant which funds the National Resource Center in International Studies). Any marginal increases in the budget to handle the new minor have been negotiated in the context of the renewal grant for the National Resource Center.

The ICEC will review this proposal at its April meeting.

Charles R. Kniker

Approved: _____
Frank J. Stork