

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Proposal for a New Undergraduate Minor in Chinese Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ISU
Date: June 10, 2002

Recommended Action:

Approve Iowa State University's proposal for a new undergraduate minor in Chinese Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Executive Summary:

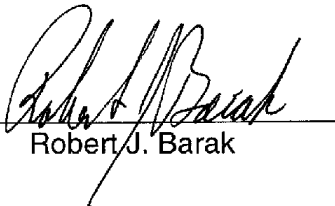
Iowa State University is requesting approval of a new undergraduate Minor in Chinese Studies.

The proposed minor will be administered by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and will involve faculty from Anthropology, Architecture, History and Political Science. It will focus on the integration of Chinese language and cultural studies and will emphasize a curriculum relevant to the dynamic intercultural exchange that students are likely to experience in their future professional careers.

Not Duplicative The proposed minor would be the only stand-alone Chinese Studies Minor in Iowa.

No New Resources The program will not require new or reallocated resources

Regent Program Review Questions Attached is a copy of the University's responses to the Regent New Program Review Questions (pages 2-6).


Robert J. Barak

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

Regents Program Review Questions

Proposal for Undergraduate Chinese Studies Minor

1. Need

- a. How will this proposed program further the educational and curriculum needs of the students in this discipline?

In step with ISU's vision of internationalization, this newly created program will offer students the option of pursuing a more focused study on China. Students will benefit from the collaborative supervision of ISU faculty working on China-related topics, and develop an interdisciplinary approach to understanding China.

Specifically, the program will enable the students to function at the advanced level in Mandarin Chinese; provide a basic knowledge of Chinese civilization and culture that the students can apply to their appropriate undergraduate major curricula; and prepare them to work in China or pursue study in the target culture.

- b. How does it further the educational and curriculum needs of other units in the college or university?

The Chinese Studies Minor will contribute to the internationalization and diversity of the ISU curriculum. Although there are many social science and humanities courses on Asia already offered in LAS, this program will serve to bring coherence to these courses through an articulated curriculum whose parts strengthen each other. The result will provide a clearer vision and a greater incentive for course development by all concerned faculty members.

Specifically it will have positive implications for two related programs in LAS: International Studies, which is an established major with an Asian Studies option; and Asian American Studies, which is now being planned. Neither program has a Chinese language component or a focus on modern China. Both programs can take advantage of the language and culture components in the Chinese Studies Minor, and quite conceivably use its courses on Chinese history and culture as electives or as requirements in their respective majors. The Chinese Studies Minor will present an important step in the consolidation and strengthening of the Asian Studies option currently under review.

2. Duplication and Collaboration

- a. What programs in this field of study are available in other colleges and universities in Iowa?

In Iowa, Chinese Studies courses are offered at UI, UNI, and Grinnell College. UI has an extensive course offering in Chinese language, culture and civilization, which is incorporated into its Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian Languages and Literatures, or in Asian Studies; UNI offers Chinese language courses at the first and second-year levels but has no related major or minor programs; Grinnell offers, through its Division of Humanities, a major in Chinese, which features an in-depth study of the language and intellectual tradition.

- b. With what representatives of these programs have you consulted in developing this proposal? Provide a summary of the reactions of each institution consulted.

UI offers a BA in Asian Languages and another in Asian Studies, and offers a graduate program in teaching Chinese as a second language. Professor Chuanren Ke, a nationally recognized authority on Chinese language instruction and Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures at UI, writes "I have read your proposal and concur with you completely." Professor Ke views the ISU proposal as well thought out and particularly likes the integration of history, political science, anthropology, and architecture with the language courses. Professor Ke believes that the ISU proposal is a complement to the UI program, and observes notably that "being a National Foreign Language Resource Center supported by the US Department of Education, it is inconceivable that ISU does not have a formal program for Chinese, a language that is so strategically and economically important to this country."

Maria Basom, head of the Modern Languages Program at UNI, writes to "fully support" our proposal. They have no similar program, but have recently begun to offer first-year Chinese. Basom sees the ISU program as a "great benefit" to students. "Your proposed curriculum is sound, combining a solid linguistic foundation with courses in the social sciences."

Professor Margarita Pillado, Chair of the Department of Chinese and Japanese at Grinnell College, "find[s] the proposal to be impressive in its curricular coherence and clear articulation of the academic and professional needs" of students. Praising the sound articulation of curricular requirements, she singles out the "most significant strength" of the proposed minor as "the expectation of achievement of advance-level language competency [with] the integration of culture-related courses" in five distinct disciplines.

- c. In what ways is this proposed program similar to those mentioned in 2a? In what ways is it different or does it have a different emphasis?

The proposed Chinese Studies Minor at ISU will complement, rather than compete with, the above-mentioned programs. It will be the only stand-alone Chinese Studies Minor program among Iowan universities and colleges. With a focus on modern China, the proposed Minor provides a comprehensive training program relevant to the dynamic, intercultural exchange that students are likely to experience in their future careers, whether in business, scientific research, or government service.

d. How does the proposed program supplement the current programs available?

Of students taking Chinese courses in Fall 2001, 55% are in LAS, followed by 20% in the College of Engineering, 15% in the College of Business, and 5% in the College of Design. The remaining students are drawn from other colleges. A Fall 2000 survey in the College of Engineering indicates that knowledge of a foreign language is a major asset to a student's future career development.

e. Has the possibility of some kind of inter-institutional program or other cooperative effort been explored? What are the results of this study?

Currently, ISU has an exchange program with the National Normal University in Taiwan and maintains a close relationship with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Beijing Polytechnic University. Every year, FLL also works with the Study Abroad Center to send a number of students (two of whom are on scholarship) to spend a semester or a year in Taiwan. We are committed to maintaining and expanding this exchange program.

The Departments of Architecture and FLL are also collaborating on the development of a Summer Interdisciplinary China Study Program. If interest warrants and if resources are available, we intend to explore the possibility at a future date of initiating exchange programs with Chinese universities.

During the 2001/2002 academic year, faculty teaching Chinese in FLL have continued to build upon already strong relationships with the Chinese community on campus, in the greater Des Moines area, and at the UI. An exhibit of Chinese handwriting, a Chinese New Year fête, a film and lecture program have all served to bring together faculty teaching Chinese studies in five different academic departments with members of the ISU Chinese Student and Scholar Association and the Ames Asian community. These activities, coordinated in large part by FLL faculty, have also generated campus-wide good will and promoted interest in Chinese culture. Indeed, an overflow audience attended the October 2001 lecture of Chinese novelist Su Tong, author of *Raise the Red Lantern*, who was in Iowa last fall to participate in UI's International Writers' Program. (Agreements are now in place to ensure the Chinese writer(s) annually invited to Iowa City under the auspices of this UI program will also come to ISU to give a lecture).

FLL faculty have also been collaborating with the Iowa Sister States Association and the Chinese Association of Iowa in Des Moines to bring to fruition two notable cultural initiatives: the April 2002 Iowa lecture tour of memoirist Rae Yang, author of *Spider Eaters* and *China: Fifty Years inside the People's Republic*; and the continued development of the Iowa-China Teacher Exchange Program in which it is anticipated some of ISU's Chinese Studies Minors will participate.

Nurturing closer ties with the Chinese Learners Association at the UI and cultivating a long-standing relationship with the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures have also been priorities for FLL faculty in the 2001/2002 academic year as both institutions explore ways to pool faculty expertise and share resources through distance learning and creative educational applications of new technologies. The

groundwork for an enhanced collaborative relationship will be laid in April 2002 when Professors Aili Mu and Frank Mariner (Chair, FLL Curriculum Committee) undertake a three-day visit to the UI campus, under the sponsorship of the Iowa Regents Fellowship Program, funded by the ISU Provost's Office. During their visit, Professors Mariner and Mu will consult with Professor Chuanren Ke, a prominent authority on Chinese language pedagogy, and other members of the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures on a wide range of issues: on developing the strengths of the proposed Chinese Studies Minor; on exploiting the full potential of FLL's new high technology classroom; on establishing the basis for future collaborative efforts, including finalizing plans for Professor Ke's scheduled visit to ISU in the 2002/2003 academic year; on discussing a pilot project involving distance learning, and resolving the related technical and logistic difficulties, including reaching an accommodating on UI's and ISU's distinct academic calendars. Professor Mu will also have the opportunity to observe the working of a nationally reputed program in Chinese language pedagogy, to explore fully available technology resources, to sit in on classes, and to interact with her colleagues in other meaningful contexts. Following the visit, the momentum for dialogue and resource sharing between the two Regent institutions will be sustained not only by Professor Ke's anticipated visit to the ISU campus, but also by the two-day, Fall 2002 visit of UI Professor Tonglin Lu, sponsored by the FLL lecture fund. A noted authority on Chinese cinema, Professor Lu will speak in Professor Mu's Chinese cinema course and deliver a public lecture for the general university community.

- f. List the Iowa institutions in which articulation agreements are being developed for the proposed program.

Not applicable

- g. Provide the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code for the proposed program.

The CIP code for the proposed program is 16.0301.

3. Are there accreditation standards for this program? If so, please provide a copy of the accreditation standards.

The Association of Asian Studies (AAS) is a national professional organization that promotes academic and educational activities related to Asia in general as well as specific countries in that region. So far, AAS and many of its affiliated organizations do not have in place an accreditation program for Asia-specific study programs.

- a. What is the accreditation organization?

Not applicable.

- b. What accreditation timetable is anticipated?

Not applicable.

4. Does the proposed program meet minimal standards for the program, e.g., Council of Graduate School or other such bodies?

Not applicable.

5. Please report any reactions of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education.

The proposal was submitted to the ICCPHSE on 4/22/02; there were no objections.

Additional Resource Needs

Current staffing is adequate for the existing courses and the two new experimental courses that apply towards the proposed minor. As such, the new minor will not require new or reallocated resources.