SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

concerning

REVISION TO THE MINOR IN
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
(#4226)

Presented at the
773rd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
December 14, 2017

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

Neal Abraham, Wesley Autio, Martha Baker, Carol Barr, Bryan Beck, Allison Butler, Marcy Clark, Catherine Dimmitt, Sharon Domier, Diane Flaherty, Laura Francis, Mark Guerber, Jennifer Heuer, Maeve Howett, Patrick Kelly, Kathryn Lachman, Nancy Lamb, Meredith Lind, Linda Lowry, Roberta Marvin, Ernest May, Ruthanne Paradise, MJ Peterson, Jennifer Randall, Linda Shea (Chair), Kelly Smiaroski, Kregg Strehorn, Ben Stone, Patrick Sullivan, Nancy Symmes, Jack Wileden, Rebecca Woodland

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision to the Minor Natural Resources Conservation, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-016.

Briefly describe the Proposal

Proposed Starting Date for Revisions to Take Effect Spring 2018 or as soon thereafter as possible.

Revision Information

Please describe the revisions you are proposing.

We are simply proposing to allow one 100-level NRC course to count toward the NRC minor. Currently only 200-level courses and above are approved to count toward the minor.

Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this proposal.

These proposed changes began being discussed when I began teaching NRC classes and I met some students who had taken NRC 100 because they were interested in the NRC minor and an advisor from
another department had told them that the class would count toward the minor. The students were confused and disappointed to find out that the course didn't count. It seemed clear to me that the course should count, so discussions among faculty ensued. During a faculty meeting in the Department of Environmental Conservation this past year, the faculty voted and unanimously approved the changes proposed here. Ironically, currently NRC 100 counts toward the Environmental Science minor, but not the NRC minor. This should be remedied.

Describe the purpose and particular goals for this proposal.

The purpose of this change is to allow students to count the introductory NRC classes toward the minor. This would encourage more students to pursue the minor, because after taking the introductory class they will have already started progress toward the minor. This would encourage more students to learn more deeply about the environment and the more citizens that understand the environmental challenges that we face, the better hope for environmental sustainability in the future.

Resources

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. Indicate how many new enrollments are expected as a result of these revisions and how the courses will accommodate them.

This proposal requires no additional resources, it is simply a matter off replacing minor curriculum sheets with an updated curriculum sheet (see attached).

Curriculum

Describe both the current and proposed curricula for this minor, indicating any changes. If the revisions include courses that have not yet received permanent status, please note their status as experimentals or in the Faculty Senate workflow. If the proposed revision does not affect the curriculum, please note so here. If you would like to attach any curricular worksheets or other materials describing the current or proposed curriculum, you may attach them below.

The NRC minor requires 15 credits of NRC courses. Currently two courses must be taken from a list of four 200-level core courses, while three courses must be taken from two different categories of upper-level courses. The proposed changes would allow a student to count one 100-level course (all courses listed have permanent status), while still requiring two 200-level courses, and requiring at least two upper-level courses. A minimum of 15 credits will still be required.

Please attach any additional materials here.

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