SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

concerning

CREATION OF A CERTIFICATE
IN POLITICAL ECONOMY
(#4824)

Presented at the
777th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 12, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

Neal Abraham, Wesley Autio, Martha Baker, Carol Barr, Brian Beck, William Brown, Allison Butler, D. Anthony Butterfield, Marcy Clark, Catherine Dimmitt, Sharon Domier, Wei Fan, Diane Flaherty, Laura Francis, Mark Guerber, Jennifer Heuer, Maeve Howett, Patrick Kelly, Kathryn Lachman, Nancy Lamb, Meredith Lind, Linda Lowry, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Roberta Marvin, Ernest May, David Morin, Ruthann Paradise, Jennifer Randall, MJ Peterson, Linda Shea, Chair, Kelly Smiaroski, Kregg Strehorn, Patrick Sullivan, Nancy Symmes, Jack Wileden, Rebecca Woodland, Kate Woodmansee, Clare McGladrigan, and Colleen Coakley

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Please describe your proposal

This Online Certificate in Political Economy is offered by the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. It is designed for students interested in learning about modern capitalist economies, and feasible alternative futures. Our department is quite unique in offering courses in a wide range of areas including critical political economy, development economics, the environment, international economics, and economic history. This certificate is a good opportunity to delve into these wide ranging areas, while also engaging with various approaches to economics - from the mainstream and heterodox perspectives.
Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this certificate.

We are already offering several online courses. This certificate will be a collection of online courses that are already being offered.

Purpose and Goals

Describe the certificate's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills that will be acquired by participating students.

Our department is quite unique in offering courses in a wide range of areas including critical political economy, development economics, the environment, international economics, and economic history. This certificate is a good opportunity to delve into these wide ranging areas, while also engaging with various approaches to economics - from the mainstream and heterodox perspectives.

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. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.

No need for other additional resources.

Curriculum

Please describe the curriculum for this certificate, listing all required courses and possible electives, any prerequisites or GPA requirements, the recommended order or coursework and any other pertinent information. You may attach additional materials related to the curriculum at the end of this section.

Please see attached document.

Explain how these courses represent a coherent course of study.

Please see attached document.

Describe how there is a clear educational objective that can be achieved in an efficient and well-defined manner.

Please see attached document.

Explain how the course sequence offers a clear objective at the appropriate educational level.

Please see attached document.
Describe the perceived need for this certificate.

After the global crisis of 2008, there are a lot of people who are interested in understanding the economy in an accessible, and critical way. Moreover, there is an interest in looking at the interconnections between the economy and the political domain. This certificate will cater to that target group.

If the courses that comprise the certificate have been or currently are being offered, describe their schedule of availability. If the certificate is comprised of new courses, describe their planned availability.

Yes, all of them except Econ 105 are already being offered online. Econ 105 will be ready by Summer 2018.

If the certificate requires or includes courses from outside the sponsoring department, provide evidence of agreement(s) with the unit(s) offering those courses. You may attach any memoranda of understanding below.

NA

If applicable, please attach any memoranda of understanding from other departments or colleges below.

No Files Uploaded at This Time

If the requirements for this certificate overlap with those of another certificate or a degree program, describe that overlap.
(Note that if a student who has completed a certificate seeks clearance for a degree program that overlaps with that certificate program, the Registrar will note on the transcript that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)

NA

What type of student is allowed to participate in this certificate program? (E.g., matriculated UMass students, non-matriculated CPE students, Five College students, graduate students, students in a specific degree program, etc.)

Please see attached document.

What role will this certificate play in relation to other departments or degree programs on campus? Certificates vary widely across campus and may represent a subset of an existing degree program, a multidisciplinary program, or an entirely free-standing area of focus.

This will be a free-standing area of focus.

Is this a transitional certificate program?
(Transitional certificate programs are comprised of core courses from specific degree programs and may act as stepping stones into those programs. If a student who has completed a transitional certificate matriculates to the University and completes the degree program
associated with that certificate, the transcript will note that the certificate has been superseded by the degree.)

No

Comments:

*If applicable, please attach any additional material relating to the certificate (such as requirement checksheets for students, etc.) below.*

**MOTION:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Creation of a Certificate in Political Economy, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-056.