

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

Educational Policies Committee

Faculty Senate

5-29-2009

Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, May 29, 2009 – Consolidation: Existing Emphases in the BS in Management Information Systems

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_edpol

Recommended Citation

Utah State University, "Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, May 29, 2009 – Consolidation: Existing Emphases in the BS in Management Information Systems" (2009). *Educational Policies Committee*. Paper 762.

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_edpol/762

This Program Proposal is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Educational Policies Committee by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.





AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
SHEPHERD UNION BUILDING
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
MAY 29, 2009

Utah State Board of Regents
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents Building, The Gateway
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284

Institutional Impact: The proposed restructuring will not affect current enrollments in the Department's programs. The number of faculty and professional staff will not change.

Finances: No additional costs are anticipated. No new physical facilities or equipment will be required.

iv. Name Change: Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences to the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences and the BS in Nutrition and Food Sciences to BS in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences

Request: This proposal is to change the name of the Department and the name of the BS degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences in the College of Agriculture at Utah State University (USU) to the Department of Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences and to the BS in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Sciences. The proposed name changes have successfully completed the USU campus approval process and were approved by the USU Board of Trustees on March 6, 2009. The new names would be effective Fall 2009.

Need: The Department provides one bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Food Sciences with three areas of emphasis: Dietetics, Nutrition Science, and Food Science. The name change would represent all three areas of emphasis, and would better represent the Dietetics program, which comprises 70 percent of the undergraduate majors and 60 percent of the undergraduate degrees from the Department.

In addition, students interested in Dietetics have difficulty finding the academic department in which this program resides at USU. The name change will facilitate locating Dietetics program information.

Institutional Impact: It is anticipated that the name change will result in greater visibility for the Dietetics Program. In turn, the Nutrition Science and Food Science programs may become more visible since the three emphases share the same website.

Finances: It is anticipated that no additional costs will be incurred due to this name change.

v. Consolidation: Managerial Emphasis, Technical Emphasis, and Training and Development Emphasis Consolidated (Eliminated) in the BS in Management Information Systems

Request: The Department of Management Information Systems (MIS) in the Jon M Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University (USU) requests approval to revise the curriculum for the Bachelor of Science (BS) in MIS degree by consolidating the three existing emphases (Managerial, Technical, and Training & Development) into a single designation as an MIS major. This proposal has been through the full institutional review process and was approved by the USU Board of Trustees on April 10, 2009.

The change does away with emphases altogether; students' transcripts will indicate that they received a major in MIS. In addition, the curriculum will change from 3 core classes, 3-6 required classes, and 1-3 electives, specific to each emphasis, to a curriculum with 4 required classes and 4 electives for all students. Students will be advised to select electives based on their career interests. Advising materials will include possible career options for those with an MIS major, and suggest sets of electives appropriate for a given career choice. Electives recommended for a "career track" will be suggestions only, and students may take any four MIS electives that are aligned with their career objectives. Students will earn 25-26 credit hours under the proposed change, as opposed to 28-32 credit hours under the prior curriculum. The set of

courses offered by the MIS Department will remain the same under the proposed curriculum change, with the exception of one new course on Emerging Technologies in MIS.

Need: Over the past nine months, the MIS Department has conducted an extensive review of its curriculum in light of new recommendations from the Association for Information Systems (AIS). Along with extensive involvement of the MIS faculty directly, the process included discussions with members of the MIS Advisory Board and a review of the curricula at peer institutions. In addition, a BS in MIS program will be offered through USU Distance Education beginning fall 2009. Distance Education students have been able to earn a degree in Business with an option in MIS, but until this fall, they have not been able to earn a BS in MIS.

The changes are necessary to ensure the MIS curriculum serves the needs of both on-campus and distance students. The new curriculum means that there will be no difference in the requirements for a BS in MIS whether a student takes classes in Logan or through the Distance Education program. This would not have been the case if the Department continued to offer three emphases. Each emphasis had a tailored curriculum, as described above. It would be prohibitive in terms of faculty teaching loads and access to broadcast times to offer the full repertoire of classes for all three emphases frequently enough for Distance Education students to make satisfactory progress toward completing their degrees. With the streamlined major, the MIS Department will offer required classes in the new curriculum at least once a year to Distance Education students, and each elective will be offered at least once every other year.

Another reason for the curriculum change is that the MIS faculty would like to reduce the overall number of credits required for the major to be more in line with requirements for other majors in the Huntsman School.

The proposed streamlined curriculum with no emphases is consistent with those offered through a majority of MIS programs in Utah and around the country. The BS in MIS program at USU will be distinguished by keeping the total number of classes consistent with other institutions (e.g., most require 7-8 classes for an MIS major), while increasing the number of electives within that set so students can tailor their studies to a series of classes that best meets their career goals. This is especially valuable because of the varied professional needs and interests of both on-campus and distance students.

Institutional Impact: The proposed change will not affect existing administrative structures. No additional faculty, facilities, or equipment are needed because the on-campus and distance programs will remain the same. The changes, however, streamline the curriculum and course availability, allowing the MIS Department to effectively utilize faculty talents as well as serve the needs of MIS students on the Logan campus and around the state.

Finances: The proposed change will not require any additional funds. Use of faculty will be more efficient because the same faculty will serve a larger number of students when the distance program begins.

B. Weber State University—New Minor: Environmental Studies

Request: Weber State University (WSU) requests approval of an interdisciplinary minor in Environmental Studies effective Fall 2009, administered through the College of Arts and Humanities. The Environmental Studies Minor is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on the work of science in human activity. The core curriculum is solidly comprised of the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. The curriculum focuses upon the application of science in policy-making, business decisions, and historical precedent. The curriculum also covers the role of ethics in consideration of health and social justice issues.