Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, August 28, 2009

Utah State University

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
TAGGART STUDENT CENTER
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
LOGAN, UTAH
AUGUST 28, 2009
The Exercise Science emphasis represents 65 percent of the majors in this degree program, and many of these students are seeking admission into graduate school, medical school, or a physician assistant’s program. Unfortunately, medical schools and advanced degree programs do not always recognize a degree in physical education as appropriate preparation for admission, despite the fact that the exercise science emphasis allows students to complete all requisite course work.

The reasons for seeking approval for this degree name change are to 1) truly reflect the breadth of academic programs and course work offered; 2) allow students to earn a degree that better communicates the available emphases; and 3) remove the barrier that medical schools and advanced degree programs have toward student applications reflecting a degree in Physical Education.

**Institutional Impact:** It is expected that with the renamed degree more students may be attracted to this degree. There are no anticipated impacts to other instructional programs or affiliated departments or programs. There will be no affect on existing administrative structures within the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. There will be no new faculty, physical facilities or equipment required for this degree.

**Finances:** There are no additional costs associated with this name change. The HPER Department currently offers this degree; therefore, no additional courses or resources will be needed.

**ii. New Minor: Quantitative Finance**

**Request:** The Department of Economics and Finance in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University (USU) requests approval to offer a minor in Quantitative Finance, effective Fall 2009. This proposal has completed the institutional review process, and was approved by the USU Board of Trustees on July 10, 2009.

The proposed minor program of study would require the following courses:

- Statistics (STAT 3000)
- Econometrics (STAT 5100 or ECN 5330)
- Math Econ I (ECN 4310) or Math Econ II (ECN 5310) or
- Actuarial Math I (MATH 5570) or Actuarial Math II (MATH 5580)
- Calculus (MATH 1100 or MATH 1210) or Intermediate Microeconomics (ECN 4010)
- Financial Economics (ECN 5600) or Corporate Finance (FIN 4460)
- Investments (FIN 4460)

These courses all currently exist in the USU curriculum, and many of these courses satisfy part of the Huntsman School of Business core, or elective requirements within majors in the School of Business and majors across campus.

**Need:** A central element in the academic strategy of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business is a commitment to cultivating student capacity in quantitative analytics. Many students within the Huntsman School of Business, but particularly those who have chosen majors in Economics and Finance, are interested in careers where an understanding of sophisticated financial models and complementary data analysis techniques are critical elements in their knowledge and skill set. In addition, students who choose to pursue this minor will be better prepared for the series of exams leading to the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) credential or the series of actuarial exams. Furthermore, students in the math-actuarial
program will benefit from the focused set of economics and finance courses contained in this minor that provide topical coverage relevant to the actuarial exams. Due to increased sophistication of financial market transactions and the analytical innovation that is sweeping this industry, public and private entities that operate in this market arena are placing more emphasis on hiring individuals with analytical skills appropriate for sophisticated risk analysis. This minor is designed to be responsive to these demands.

**Institutional Impact:** It is not anticipated that this minor will affect enrollment in any particular major. It may impact, by design, enrollment in the Economics minor and the Finance minor, providing an alternative that meets the needs of today’s economic and financial arena.

**Finances:** The addition of this minor will be budget neutral. The proposed curriculum does not require any new courses. No new faculty, facilities, or equipment will be required.

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner recommends the Regents review the items on the Program’s Information Calendar. No action is required.

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William A. Sederburg  
Commissioner of Higher Education

WAS/AMH