



University Academic Senate (UAS)  
Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS)  
Felix Ngassa, Chair, 2017-2020  
Shawn Bultsma, Vice Chair, 2017-2020

### Memorandum

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**TO:** Maria Cimitile, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

**FROM:** Felix Ngassa, Chair, ECS/UAS

**SUBJECT:** New Program Prospectus: Bachelor's of Applied Studies (log# 10867)

**DATE:** September 24, 2019

**CC:** Shawn Bultsma, Vice Chair, Executive Committee of the University Academic Senate  
Andrea Bostrom, Chair, Graduate Council (GC)  
Martin Burg, Chair, University Curriculum Committee (UCC)  
Robert Hollister, Chair, Faculty Salary Budget Committee (FSBC)  
Ellen Schendel, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mark Schaub, Interim Dean, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Denise Goerisch, Prospectus Author, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies  
ECS Members

On September 18, 2019, the Council for New Programs and New Academic Units, chaired by Vice Chair, Shawn Bultsma, met at my request to begin the consideration of a prospectus for a Bachelor's of Applied Studies. As stated in the prospectus this major is designed for non-traditional and traditional working students who have completed an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree and who pursue advanced learning in order to meet the demands of a high quality, educated workforce. The proposed degree program recognizes the value of technical skills learned at the associate's level while guiding students to integrate critical inquiry, build interdisciplinary knowledge, and further develop core academic skills like critical thinking, ethical reasoning, information and quantitative literacy, complex problem solving, and oral and written communication within their chosen career paths. This proposed degree is designed such that, instead of pursuing a traditional academic major, students would work with their faculty and professional advisors to structure programs that meet their individual objectives. The goal of this degree would be to add breadth of the general education program to the depth of their previous coursework in applied sciences. A strength of this particular program is that it could include incorporating certificate, digital badge programs, and minor programs from across the university into students' degrees. The prospectus indicates that this degree will be delivered through fully online and/or low residency (hybrid) courses; consequently, it could be available to serve students across the state and region. This new degree offers to solve a problem for potential students whose credits from an applied associate's degree would not otherwise transfer into the university. It was agreed that this unique degree fills a response to the call for universities to consider creating more flexible options that support varied pathways through post-secondary education. The prospectus highlighted that the college has the needed expertise to meet this need and that additional resources needed to offer the degree are minimal. In fact, it was noted that several employers are willing and able to cover the cost of tuition for many of these returning, non-traditional adult learners. The authors are advised to indicate that the proposed release for program coordinator should come from the significant area of focus rather than a release from teaching.

The Council voted to recommend support for the prospectus (4-yay; 0-nay; 0-abstain).