



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

Memorandum

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

FROM: Felix Ngassa, Chair, ECS/UAS

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Council on New Programs and New Academic Units

DATE: December 16, 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, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
ECS Members

On December 11, 2019, the Council for New Programs and New Academic Units, chaired by Vice Chair, Shawn Bultsma, met at my request to discuss expansion of the integrative studies program that is currently offered in the Integrative, Religious, and Intercultural Studies (IRIS) unit. The council members agreed that it would be advantageous to expand a path for adult learners toward degree completion with the creation of three standalone certificates that might also be included as emphasis options in the integrative studies program: (1) data analytics, (2) program management, and (3) global communications. A fourth certificate being proposed is leadership, which currently exists as an emphasis in the integrative studies program. The desired implementation would be to begin in the fall of 2020; however, this deadline presents challenges in terms of marketing and roll out. The council members concurred that it would be appropriate to develop these certificates along with a plan to integrate them as options to include in the integrative studies program offered in IRIS once they are discussed with UCC early next semester, and if UCC has no significant objections. We recognize this is a unique opportunity and situation where the program would be marketed to recruit students prior to being officially approved. The current plan involves seeking temporary permission to proceed with development of the four standalone certificates which will likely include new courses using existing procedures for piloting new courses before they are approved. Based on the outcomes that result from the initial piloted courses, curriculum proposals will be submitted for the courses and corresponding certificates.

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