Circumscribing Parameters for Academic Minors

(Provided by the Curriculum Committee)
- May 15, 2007 -

1. A Minor shall consist of a minimum of 18 credits of coursework.

2. A Minor shall have a minimum residency (i.e. coursework taken at WSC) of at least 6 credits.

3. For all Minors, all excluded populations must be explicitly noted.

4. A student shall be allowed to undertake, complete, and be granted any number of Minors, provided that the student has no more than two (2) Minors in progress at any one time.

5. No more than 6 credits of a Minor may be shared with another Minor (i.e., taken in conjunction with #1 above, this means that a minimum of 30 credits must be completed – given maximum allowed overlap – to attain two Minors).

6. Courses within a Minor that have a Prerequisite must to be clearly noted as having a Prerequisite in any listing of the Minor’s requirements.

7. A minimum GPA of 2.0 must be attained for the coursework fulfilling the Minor requirements.

8. Generally, a Minor should require a minimum of 6 credits of coursework at the 200 or 300 level. This should not be construed so as to contraindicate the proposal of a Minor lacking 6 credits at the 200 or 300 level; however in such a case, the Minor proposal would have to present a fully enumerated menu of courses that would make up the Minor, or areas within the Minor (i.e. be an extremely limited set of courses that are explicitly listed).

9. A Minor may be fully embedded within a Major.

Explanatory and Clarifying Notes regarding the above:

Regarding specific parameters, the following are noted informationally:

1. The notion of stating a maximum number of credits within a Minor was discussed, but it was decided that “the marketplace” would handle this, as a Minor with too many credits simply would not be viable.

2. A minimum residency of 9 or 12 credits to be taken at WSC was discussed, but was deemed to be too difficult to meet for certain Minors that are offered by the College. However, it was noted that any Minor could request establishment of its residency at any number of credits above the proposed college minimum of 6. (In fact the establishment of a minimum residency above 6 credits was noted as being desirable, as it would make the Minor a “stronger” one.)

3. “Excluded populations” may sound odd, but in certain cases, it may be inappropriate for certain individuals to be granted certain Minors (for example, the “Computer Studies” Minor is not available to a “Computer Science” Major or “Computer Information Systems” Major).
4. This is stated only because it replaces a previously existing policy that limited the number of Minors allowed to be undertaken to two.

5. No explanatory or clarifying note deemed necessary.

6. No explanatory or clarifying note deemed necessary.

7. A minimum GPA of 2.0 in the Minor is current policy. This is therefore included only for the sake of providing a comprehensive, all-inclusive document.

8. No explanatory or clarifying note deemed necessary.

9. No explanatory or clarifying note deemed necessary.