To: Faculty Senate
From: Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee: Sakiko Oyama (Chair), Brian Davies, Turgay Korkmaz, Liang Tang, William Ramos, and Pepe Chang
Re: Review of proposal for the Community Engaged Leadership Certificate
Date: December 5th, 2018

Faculty senate curriculum committee reviewed the proposal for the Community Engaged Leadership Certificate from the University College. Based on our evaluation, we recommend the proposal to be approved by the faculty senate. Please see below for the summary of our evaluation.

The requirements for the Community Engaged Leadership Certificate include 1) one required course (UCS 4013 UTSA Advanced Engagement), 2) 12 credit hours of electives from the service-learning designated courses or non-designated courses with the approval from the faculty, Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, and Associated Dean for Undergraduate Programs in the University College, and 3) participation in at least one Civic Engagement Summit, UTSA Undergraduate Research Showcase or other approved events. At least 6 of the 12 credit hours electives must be earned from the service-learning designated courses. Approval of the non-designated courses as electives will be based on the service-learning hours and a requirement to complete a service-learning project.

The certificate has a clear objective to integrate coursework with experiential learning opportunities within UTSA, San Antonio, and Bexar County communities, in order to foster the requisite knowledge, understanding, skills, and virtues of community leaders. The certificate will also increase students’ competitiveness for internships or job opportunities in a variety of related professional fields, and strengthens UTSA’s relationship with the San Antonio and Bexar County communities. The certificate is also in alignment with President’ Classroom to Career Initiative, and strengthens UTSA’s position as a Carnegie-classified institution for Civic Engagement and Urban-serving Institute.

The program has a similar goal as the Minor in Civic Engagement offered through the College of Public Policy, but the certificate program’s emphasis on the service learning experience makes it unique from the Minor in Civic Engagement. The Minor in Civic Engagement requires that the students take 2 courses from 57 courses in the Diversity and 2 courses from 74 courses in the Civic Infrastructure category. Of the total of 131 (=57+74) electives, only 3 have the service-learning designation. We have reached out to Dr. Francine Romero, the Associate Dean for the College of Public Policy to get her feedback on the certificate program, and she does not feel that the proposed certificate program will compete with their Minor.

The only resource needed to support the certificate is the instructor to develop and instruct UCS 4013 UTSA Advanced Engagement.