

## University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Chair: Alistair Welchman

Members: Liang Tang, Gregory Hazleton, Pepe Chang, Raymond Garza, Martha Fasci, Brian Davies, Turgay Korkmaz

There are four proposals before the committee:

1. Minor in Jazz Studies (Department of Music)
2. Minor in Music Marketing (Department of Music)
3. Minor in Music Technology (Department of Music)
4. BA in Political Science with Social Studies Teaching Track (Department of Political Science and Geography)

The Committee recommends that the Senate vote to accept all the proposals and send them on for final administrative approval. For the proposed minors from the Department of Music, the votes were all 6 in favor, none opposed with 2 abstentions; for the new BA from Political Science and Geography, the vote was 5 in favor, 1 opposed with 2 abstentions.

### Music Minors

The three proposals for new minors either expand existing Certificate programs (Jazz Studies, Music Technology) or, in the case of Music Marketing, propose a complementary minor to an existing major. There are clear reasons for providing the minors. Most large state schools have a major in Jazz Studies, and, while UTSA is not yet in a position to introduce a new major, the minor is a good stepping stone and responds to demonstrable student interest. Similarly, the importance of music technology is clear today, and the proposed minor will be well positioned to replace an ailing program at UT Austin. The Minor in Music Marketing will enable more cross-over interest with Business students who may not be able to take a second major but are interested in the music industry.

Almost no new resources would be required to implement the proposals: courses are all in place for the Minor in Music Marketing; for the Minor in Jazz Studies and only additional credits of performance classes distinguish the proposed Minor from the existing Certificate. The Department of Music proposes hiring an NTT to teach an extra section of a music technology course (MUS 3013, MUS 3103 and/or MUS 3123). The Committee did worry that hiring an NTT to teach one course can create difficult working conditions, but the Department assured us that the position is not just for this one extra course in music technology.

### BA in Political Science with Social Studies Teaching Track

The Department of Political Science and Geography proposes a new BA program specifically tailored to students who intend to become social studies teachers in Texas middle or high schools. Such students require teacher certification that involves a number of education and other related courses in addition to domain-specific knowledge. Students who take a regular degree and then apply for certification can end up taking as many as 147 hours. The proposed degree integrates teacher certification courses into the core curriculum choices and electives of a political science BA. As a result, students can achieve a BA and teacher certification in only 120 hours. The substantive content of the degree will enable students to become Social Studies

teachers at the middle school level (6th-8th grade) or Economics, Geography, Government, and History teachers at the high school level, as well as allowing them to meet the standard of a Texas Highly Qualified Teacher. The Department has worked with the Secondary Teaching Certification Center to ensure students take courses that prepare them for the mandatory Social Studies Composite TExES exam.

The Department already teaches the appropriate courses, and so is not requesting any new resources, although it does expect up to 80 new majors in the program.

The Committee recommends that the Senate vote to accept this proposal, but has some observations to make on the proposal.

1. Should this really be a separate BA and not a track or concentration within the existing BA? The proposal uses a new BA form, but this will require Coordinating Board approval, which could take a while. If the proposal is or could be modified to be a track or concentration within an existing degree, approval would be streamlined.
2. The proposal mentions an existing program in History (which is in fact a concentration within the regular History BA). This program is somewhat similar, and the Committee wants to make sure that the Department has done due diligence in talking with the Department of History about this.

In addition, there were a couple of more minor issues:

BA proposal form:

pp. 8-9 try to disentangle the UTSA Core Curriculum requirement from the HQT “core curriculum” more clearly (e.g. be consistent about capitalization)

If this really is a proposal for a new BA, then it should conform to the usual requirements (as in the BA proposal for Politics and Legal Studies), e.g. including a table of projected enrollment and full financial information even if there are no proposed costs.

Teacher Certification Approval Form

p. 18 (Degree Requirements) ‘World Regional Geography’ should be ‘World Regional Geography’