

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



*University Curriculum Committee*

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October 29, 2018

TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate  
FROM: Jean Standard, Chairperson, University Curriculum Committee  
RE: Executive Summary – Proposal for the New IDS Minor in Food Studies

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached Interdisciplinary Studies proposal for a new Minor in Food Studies.

The Co-Directors provided a reasonable rationale for adding this new minor:

- Food production and consumption intersect with key global issues, including human rights, hunger and malnutrition, water security, energy, public health, environmental sustainability, and climate change. Food can, therefore, be a lens through which to study and understand critical global problems, their interlinkages, and their impacts on our lives and our communities. It can also help students understand a variety of social justice issues that we have to grapple with in the US domestic context.
- Food Studies programs have been expanding in the US since the 1990s and many Illinois State faculty have scholarship in this emerging discipline. We have the capacity and expertise to offer our students a coordinated but flexible food studies curriculum. Additionally, the growing food movement in Central Illinois offers our students opportunities for service learning and community engagement projects.
- The capstone experience of this minor supports the University's commitment to civic engagement (Strategic Direction IV in Educate-Connect-Elevate, the university strategic plan). This growing local food movement also offers opportunities for co-curricular programs that complement a Food Studies curriculum, which can support the integration of curricular and co-curricular activities, which Educate-Connect-Elevate also calls for (Strategic Direction II). Moreover, a Food Studies program would also contribute to the emphasis in Educate- Connect- Elevate on promoting the development of interdisciplinary programs (Strategic Direction II).

This is an interdisciplinary minor. Program Co-Directors will be Gina Hunter (SOA), Kathryn Sampeck (SOA) and Noha Shawki (POL). Ryan Gray has offered to serve as the Minor's advisor. With three co-Directors they do not expect the management of the minor or supervision of projects to be onerous and all administrative duties will be undertaken in addition to their regularly assigned workloads. The minor draws upon existing courses from across campus and two new courses, ANT 105 and ANT 343.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new minor.

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Attachments