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University Curriculum Committee

April 1, 2011

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate

FROM: Carlyn Morenus, Chair, University Curriculum Committee

RE: Executive Summary of Proposal for New General Sequence and Urban Education Sequence in the IDS Minor in Urban Studies

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to revise the Interdisciplinary Studies Minor in Urban Studies to add new sequences: General Sequence and Urban Education Sequence.

The Urban Studies advisor, Alan Lessoff, provided the following rationale for adding the General Sequence and the Urban Education Sequence:

- In November of 2009, the Urban Studies minor underwent a self-study as part of the University Curriculum Committee's five year review of IDS minors. During that review, suggestions were offered and as a result, the program has been revised and a new sequence has been developed.
- General Sequence: Since implementation of the program in 2000-2001, faculty interests and teaching specializations have changed. The original program reflected orientation of people who devised it toward urban planning, public administration, and geography. While worthwhile, the emphasis left the program too narrow and inflexible for most students. The revisions to the renamed General Sequence are meant to reflect current faculty strengths and interests and to strike a practical balance between focus and flexibility.
- Urban Education Sequence: The most important development relevant to Urban Studies over the last decade has been the emergence of several programs coordinated with the College of Education, such as the urban teacher preparation initiative and the Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline™. The Urban Teacher Preparation Steering Committee has been the driving force behind numerous activities, including creation of UTP-tagged courses, informative websites, field and clinical experiences, and the impressive student organization, Urban Needs in Teacher Education or UNITE. From the U.S. Department of Education, the College of Education's Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline™ has received a Teacher Quality Partnership grant for the TEACHER+PLUS and STEP-UP programs. These programs will support the urban teacher preparation initiative's first goal of channeling ISU students into teaching in the Chicago Public Schools. They will also enhance the university's ability to train and mentor prospective teachers for urban schools. These urban education efforts form a central component of the overall effort to prepare ISU education majors for teaching in diverse and often hard-to-staff settings. These settings are mainly urban, but they can be in inner suburbs, small towns, and rural areas as well. Over time, the effects of the Urban Education Sequence on the College of Education courses could be larger, but the program is committed to keeping enrollments within the limits that COE can support.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add the General Sequence and the new Urban Education Sequence in the Minor in Urban Studies.