
UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

DATE: 1/18/2012
TO: TIH FEN TING, CHAIR, UIS CAMPUS SENATE
FROM: HARSHAVARDHAN D. BAPAT, CHAIR, UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL
AUTHOR OF THIS MEMO: WILLIAM KLINE
RE: PROPOSAL FOR PRE-MEDICAL CONCENTRATIONS AND A PRE-MEDICAL MINOR

In its meeting on December 2nd, the Undergraduate Council (UGC) met and reviewed the proposal for Pre-Medical Studies concentrations in Biology, Chemistry, and Clinical Lab Sciences majors as well as a minor in Pre-Medical Studies. Harshavardhan Bapat was present for questions, but recused himself from voting. The UGC voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

We find the proposal and curriculum well thought out. Integrating lower division general education courses into the minor follows the same model as the major and provides a sensible introduction to the minor. Courses for the pre-medical minor and concentration can be taught by current faculty. Given the importance of good advising to retention, and the emphasis the University has placed on the provision of quality advising, the institution should consider reinstating the NIA for pre-med advising. This is important not only for graduation rates, but also for the professional success that both state and federal agencies are beginning to expect of universities.

This concentration and minor will allow students to display their intentional course of study on their transcripts. This option is not currently available to students. The Council believes that having such an option will also be a useful marketing tool for attracting students. Of special note is the fact that the minor is available to non-science majors. We believe this raises the awareness of both students and faculty of an opportunity many think restricted to science majors.

Drawing on both the pools of science and non-science majors, we believe there is adequate student demand for this concentration and minor.

It is for these reasons we support this initiative and forward it for full Campus Senate consideration.

CC: JAMES ERMATINGER, DEAN, CLAS

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