In its meeting on October 26th, 2012, the Undergraduate Council (UGC) unanimously approved a proposal by the Liberal and Integrative Studies (LNT) department to offer a minor in Liberty Studies. William Kline, the author of this proposal and UGC member recused himself from the vote. As a part of its deliberations the UGC also met with Dr. Eric Hadley-Ives, Chair, LNT and Dr. Keith Burton, Interim Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Science, to discuss the minor.

The Liberty Studies minor is distinct from the Liberal Studies major. It is a multi-disciplinary minor that will help students understand how different theories of liberty address economics, authority, and culture. These three spheres of study will be integrated in the coursework that students will complete. Students can complete this minor (15-17 hours) either on-campus or online. The required courses for this minor are offered at UIS regularly while all other courses are offered every other year, with the offerings staggered so that students will have at least one option in every group in each year.

Courses used in the minor curriculum already enroll well and no new courses need to be developed at this time. This minor fits with UIS’s public sphere-affairs mission on a very broad scale. While it is difficult to judge student demand, the department has indicated that this minor should attract students from diverse majors such as business, education, and political science. The LNT department and other departments have indicated their support in staffing and scheduling courses used in this minor.

The LNT department has indicated and the UGC concurs that this minor will not need any new resources.

The UGC recommends that in the third year of the minor’s existence the LNT department should provide a progress report directly to the UGC addressing the following: enrollment in the minor, enrollment in the minor courses, pattern of course availability, number of credit hours generated by the minor, and students graduating with the minor.

CC

ERIC HADLEY-IVES, CHAIR, LNT
JAMES ERMATINGER, DEAN, CLAS