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PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MINOR

Rationale:

International Studies is the interdisciplinary study of people, nations and regions and the many factors that govern their relationships. We are proposing the INS minor in response to the need to better prepare SRU students planning to study abroad. The minor will require that students take INS 200: Introduction to International Studies, prior to their departure for a semester or year abroad. We believe that this course will give our students better preparation to interact with the people and culture of their study abroad destination.

Desired Results: The approval of this minor is intended to achieve the following:

- Support the strategic plan of the university by contributing to the internationalization of the campus and curriculum
- Reach more students campus-wide to help them understand the world
- Better prepare those students who will study abroad
- Infuse many other majors on campus with an international component

Impact on other programs: International Studies is in its second year and has attracted 25 majors. There have been a number of students who wanted to double major with International Studies but were unable to fit it into their schedules. We believe that students would welcome the opportunity for a minor, especially if they are planning to study abroad for a semester. During the fall of 2008 there will be approximately 70 students going abroad. As the number of students who choose to study abroad continues to increase, we can anticipate that a good percentage of those would choose an International Studies minor.

When the INS minors select their five courses for the study abroad semester in conjunction with advisors in the Office of International and Multicultural Programs, they might choose all five toward their minor or split those five among their INS minor, core complement courses or courses to fulfill other majors/ and or minors. If they split their selection, then they will return to campus and select their remaining INS courses for their minor from an approved list of courses with international content. This will have a positive impact on other programs because they will select courses from the approved list of courses with international content offered by other departments.

Cost for students – University: The majority of students would be able to earn the minor within the 128 credits. There will be a need to run an additional section of INS 200 Introduction to International Studies for the minors.

Catalog Description: Minor in International Studies

Students completing a minor in International Studies are required to take the following six courses (18 credits). Applicants to the program must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 for admission and continuation in the program.

INS 200 Introduction to International Studies (3)

INS 300 Semester Abroad (15)

The study abroad semester must be designed in consultation with advisors in the Office of International and Multicultural Programs. The approved program will ensure that the courses selected will be drawn from a minimum of three disciplines. We will also advise and encourage INS minors to take additional language courses.