November 15, 2006

TO: Undergraduate Council

FROM: Representatives of the 2006-7 CAS Curriculum Committee
       Alan Kimball, Principal Reviewer
       Heiner Linke, CASCC Chair for 2006-7

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Minor in African Studies, submitted by the African Studies Committee

The CAS Curriculum Committee has reviewed and unanimously approved the enclosed African Studies Committee proposal for a new instructional program leading to a minor in African Studies. The minor will be obtained by taking a structured set of courses currently offered by UO faculty who are African specialists. The program will be housed in the offices of the Oregon Consortium for International and Area Studies (OCIAS, in PLC 175). No new curricular resources are required, and the additional administrative costs to OCIAS will be met by summer-school instructional “profits” in a plan approved by African Studies and OCIAS. We found the proposal to be well-conceived and to make a significant contribution to the cause of liberal education at the UO. The minor will invite students with a breadth of backgrounds to shape and expand their understanding of Africa, to consider study abroad there, and to complete a substantial research project on some aspect of that world area. The CAS Curriculum Committee concluded that the minor program was very well structured and met all of our requirements for intellectual rigor and enrichment of the CAS curriculum.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The African Studies Committee requested that the new minor be operational “immediately upon approval”. Since proposals for minors do not require OUS approval, we hope that the Undergraduate Council will be able to complete their review and forward the approved proposal to the UOCC well before the end of winter term. The new minor could therefore be listed as effective Spring 2007 in the UOCC Winter 2007 Curriculum Report to the Senate. This will allow current students, who will have completed the requirements for the proposed minor program, to receive their degree with an African Studies Minor as early as the spring commencement.

cc:  Ron Severson, Chair, Undergraduate Council
     Paul Engelking, Chair, University Committee on Courses
     Wendy Larson, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
     Scott Pratt, Associate Dean, Humanities
     Dennis Galvan, African Studies Committee Chair
     Linda Adkins, Academic Affairs (to be filed for UOCC W07 Report to Senate)
     Cathy Kraus, Undergraduate Studies

AK/HL:lw