Motion:

The Undergraduate Council strongly endorses the proposal presented by the Department of English in cooperation with the Department of Philosophy for a new minor and a new certificate program in "Writing, Public Speaking, and Critical Reasoning."

At the same time, the Council offers the following suggestions for refining the proposal:

1) Define more precisely how the creation of five new courses has no budgetary impact.

   More specifically (and perhaps in an appendix) show how many sections of each course are planned each year, who will teach those sections, and which courses or other duties these persons will no longer offer due to their reassignment. Council members made specific references to David Frank’s two GTF’s and to Suzanne Clark’s teaching assignment, but there will probably be other zero-impact resource issues to clarify as well.

2) Clarify that the budget required to operate the program throughout the first four years does not depend upon the stated proposal “to seek foundation grants in the future as the need arises” (14).

3) Specify a limit on how many courses a student majoring in English or in Philosophy will be allowed to count both toward the minor and the major. (The Council seemed to settle on the number “2,” although there will be Registrar’s issues involved in tracking this system.) The Council did not express the same concern about the certificate program.

   *Note to readers: I think we need to decide the above issue among ourselves and provide a specific recommendation to the English Dept. This decision sets a precedent for potential interdisciplinary minors proposed in the future.

   We also may want to take this up at a later date as a set of issues somewhat separate from this particular proposal:

   • Does the UGC support interdisciplinary minors? (Yes, I think.)
   • Does the UGC support a limited degree of double-dipping for students who major in the areas involved in these interdisciplinary minors? (Yes, I think.)
   • Does the UGC advise putting a limit on the amount of double-dipping allowed? (Yes, perhaps 2 courses.)
   • For what reasons? (An interest in achieving cross-disciplinary breadth when combining majors and minors rather than creating more entrenched disciplinarity at the undergraduate level, among other reasons.)
   • Is this manageable through the Registrar’s Office or overly burdensome for advisors / DARS, etc.? (I don’t know.)

4) Clarify how the English Dept. will both control demand and ensure that those students who declare the minor or who intend to complete the certificate will be able to do so in four years. (Some Council members suggested adopting a cohort model, but the Council understands this may not be possible.)

5) Include all pre-prerequisites.

6) Change the number of credits required to earn the minor on page 1 (p. 13, written) from “28” to 24. (This was just a misprint in the original.)