

CAP's Final Recommendation on the Double Counting Exception for the Environmental Sustainability Education Minor and the iSTEM major

TO: Steering Committee

From: Committee on Academic Programs

RE: Final Recommendation on the Request for Double Counting Exception for Environmental Sustainability Education Minor and the iSTEM major

Date: April 10, 2017

Background:

In March 2017 CAP received a request from Steering to consider an exception to the rule allowing only one course to double count towards both a student's major and a minor. This exception would apply to students majoring in iSTEM and minoring in Environmental Sustainability Education. This charge was in response to a memo from the coordinator of the Environmental Sustainability Education Minor and Chair of the Department of Technological Studies.

Charge:

Steering asked CAP to consider the request for an exception to the double-counting rule and determine whether an exception should be granted. If CAP determined that an exception should be granted, CAP was requested to consider whether the policy Types of Majors and Minors Defined should be amended to include a definition of Interdisciplinary Minors. If so, testimony on the final recommendation should include testimony from the faculty in the form of open fora and electronic testimony.

Final Recommendation:

CAP reviewed the proposal and determined that the double counting exception should be granted for students pursuing an iSTEM major and Environmental Sustainability Education Minor. As both programs are highly interdisciplinary and there are several courses that overlap, the committee felt that this exception was reasonable. Furthermore, the committee believes that this exception is consistent with the existing exception that allows students in International Studies to double count two courses between the major and a related minor.

CAP determined that the policy Types of Majors and Minors Defined should be amended to include a definition of Interdisciplinary Minors. However, the committee did not believe that there was sufficient time remaining in the academic year to be able to solicit testimony on an amended policy. Therefore CAP would like to separate the original charge from Steering into two pieces. CAP endorses the request to grant a double counting exception for iSTEM majors

with a minor in Environmental Sustainability Education. CAP will revise the Types of Majors and Minors Defined policy to include a definition of Interdisciplinary Minors and expects to complete that work this academic year. However, testimony on this policy will need to be gathered in the Fall 2017 semester.

Summary: CAP recommends granting a double counting exception for the Environmental Sustainability Education Minor and iSTEM major. CAP will revise the Types of Majors and Minors Policy Defined before the end of the Spring 2017 semester, with an expectation that testimony will be gathered on this policy revision early in the Fall 2017 semester.