

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Values in Society Graduate Certificate Program in the Department of PhilosophyRECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to graduate faculty in the Program on Values, located within the Department of Philosophy, to offer the Graduate Certificate in Values in Society, effective immediately. The graduate certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be conducted by the Graduate School in the 2010-2011 academic year. At such time that the Board of Regents grants continuing status, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND:

On October 20, 2006, the Graduate School received a proposal from graduate faculty in the Program on Values, in the Department of Philosophy, requesting authority to offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Values in Society. The Values in Society Graduate Certificate Program will require 18 credit hours. It is the only ethics program designed to bring together graduate and professional students across disciplines within the University. The program is designed as an innovative approach to ethics, combining the best in philosophical ethics and the best in discipline-specific scholarship to create a bridge that opens discourse between the various fields where ethics or values issues are important. In this process, the vast academic resources of the university will be utilized and scholarship will be encouraged that truly integrates different fields of study.

Students that complete the Values in Society Graduate Certificate program will have achieved the following: a broad understanding of the philosophical frameworks for thinking about moral issues; a clear sense of the central moral questions that have arisen or may arise in their field or profession; ability to design and teach a general course on values in their field or profession; learn to articulate their moral/political values on salient questions in their disciplines in ways that allow effective and mutually illuminating communication both within their field or profession and to those outside; and produce a publishable paper on an issue of moral importance in their discipline.

On November 16, 2006, the Graduate School Council considered the proposal and recommended that it be approved. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with the Council's recommendation.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. Approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Board is not required for the Graduate Certificate proposal. The Graduate School will inform the HECB that the program has been established if the Board of Regents approves it.