

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.10 Wright State University, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the Wright State University Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Liberal Studies is approved.

BACKGROUND

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Request: Wright State University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. The B.A. in Liberal Studies will be offered by the College of Liberal Arts. The proposed B.A. in Liberal Studies will provide a broad based liberal arts experience for students.

Program Purpose/Mission: The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies offers students the opportunity to pursue interdisciplinary undergraduate coursework in humanities, the fine arts and the social sciences. The degree program will provide opportunities for students to design undergraduate study that is tailored to their own academic interests and is more interdisciplinary in educational experience than a traditional major.

Enrollments: The College anticipates that the program will attract students currently enrolled in University College for at least one year and in good academic standing. It is estimated that of the available pool of students (553 currently), approximately 81 students per academic year will pursue the B.A. in Liberal Studies as a degree option.

Curriculum: Students in the proposed B.A. in Liberal Studies will have an opportunity to pursue study in three areas: humanities, the fine arts and the social sciences. In general, the fine arts includes courses in departments of Art and Art History, Music and Theatre Arts. The humanities consist of Classics, Communication, English Language and Literatures, and History (also as social science), Modern Languages, Philosophy and Religion. The social science departments are Economics, Political Science, Social Work, Sociology and Anthropology, and Urban Affairs and Geography.

Consistent with other liberal studies programs, the B.A. in Liberal Studies will focus in the core competency areas of communicating, thinking, understanding self, understanding society, and integrating theory with practice. Students will complete a core of 8 hours (2 courses) in each of the three broad areas (humanities, fine arts and social sciences). This is followed by a 36-hour concentration in one of the three areas, all of which are 300 and 400 level courses. This comprises the major area of concentration within the B.A. in Liberal Studies. The remaining 43 hours of coursework must include a minimum of 24 upper division hours. Of these, 12 hours must be designed to enhance student employment or career advancement and will be chosen from a list of courses offered by a variety of colleges (i.e. Art History or pre-Law for example). Each student will also complete two courses in interdisciplinary studies and 23 hours of electives from any University department. The entire process will be monitored through careful advising through the program director and faculty participants. Students must also meet college foreign language requirements, and requirements for research and for writing across

the curriculum. A total of 192 hours is required for degree completion (including general studies requirements of the University).

Faculty: Faculty will come from within the College of Liberal Arts and the previously identified departments.

Evidence of Need: In a search of similar degree programs, WSU identified 46 liberal studies programs nationally for both undergraduate and graduate students. In the Dayton region, Miami University has its Western College program through the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. The University of Cincinnati also offers a Bachelor of Applied and General Studies for those students already having applied or technical associate in degrees. Among the private colleges in the region, Capital University, the University of Dayton, and Urbana University offer General Studies programs. Wilberforce University, Wilmington College and Wittenberg University have Liberal Studies programs and Xavier University offers a degree in liberal Arts in its adult program.

Licensure Requirements: There are no licensure requirements associated with the proposed degree program.

Resource Needs: As the proposed degree is housed in the College of Liberal Arts, facilities are sufficiently available for faculty and students. A program director will be appointed from within the college's current faculty. The director will work with a steering committee of faculty, including representatives from each of the three core areas (humanities, fine arts, social sciences), also appointed by the dean.