



Faculty Senate Office
Ashe Administration Building, #325
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

facsen@miami.edu
web site: www.miami.edu/fs
P: 305-284-3721
F: 305-284-5515

MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Tomas A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: April 2, 2015

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2014-30(B) – Establish a Joint Minor in Health Communication in the School of Communication and the School of Nursing and Health Studies

The Faculty Senate, at its March 25, 2015 meeting, voted unanimously to approve the establishment of a joint minor in Health Communication in the School of Communication and the School of Nursing and Health Studies. This minor will be available to students across the university to provide them “with an in-depth exposure to key elements of health communication and public health while highlighting the important interrelationship between the two disciplines,” as noted in the proposal. It is expected that career opportunities in this field in the next few years will grow very rapidly and will be of value to students who plan to pursue graduate study and future careers in Health Communication, Public Health, Health Studies or other fields.


This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Nilda Peragallo Montano, Dean, School of Nursing and Health Studies
Gregory Shepherd, Dean, School of Communication
Paul Driscoll, Vice Dean, Academic Affairs, School of Communication

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2014-30(B) – Establish a Joint Minor in Health Communication in the School of Communication and the School of Nursing and Health Studies

APPROVED:  DATE: 4/6/15
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Deans Shepherd / Peragallo

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

HEALTH COMMUNICATION MINOR PROPOSAL

A Joint proposal by the School of Communication and the School of Nursing and Health Studies

The School of Communication and the School of Nursing and Health Studies are proposing a joint minor in Health Communication that will be open to students across the university. Health communication is a diverse field that encompasses communication studies, journalism, advertising and public relations. Effective health communication is a core requirement for effective public health in that it provides the public with information that is essential to improving their overall health and quality of life. The proposed transdisciplinary minor will provide students with an in-depth exposure to key elements of health communication and public health while highlighting the important interrelationship between the two disciplines. Career opportunities in Health Communication and Public Health are expected to grow rapidly over the next few years (U.S. Department of Labor website) and we believe a transdisciplinary Minor in Health Communication would be of great value to students who plan to pursue graduate study and future careers in Health Communication, Public Health, Health Studies or a number of other related fields.

The School of Communications currently offers B.S.C and M.A. degrees in Communication Studies while the School of Nursing and Health Studies currently offers B.S. degrees in Public Health and Health Science. The proposed minor is built from existing courses and will not require the hiring of additional faculty or increase workloads for current faculty.

The proposed minor in Health Communication consists of 15 credits. Students will be required to take Health Communication (COS 324, 3 credits) and Introduction to Public Health (BPH 206, 3 credits), plus six additional credits in Communication Studies and three additional credits in Public Health from the courses listed below. A grade of C or higher is required in all courses (a grade of C- or lower is not acceptable for minor).

COS 325 Communication in Health Organizations – 3 credits
COS 426 Patient-Provider Communication – 3 credits
COS 427 Health Behavior and Risk – 3 credits
COS 472 Persuasion – 3 credits
BPH 305 Issues in Health Disparities – 3 credits
BPH 310 Global Health – 3 credits
BPH 321 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention – 3 credits
BPH 322 Introduction to Health Policy – 3 credits

Please let us know if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Carcioppolo, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Communication Studies

Martin M. Zdanowicz, PhD, MEd, MA
Professor of Clinical
Associate Dean for Health Studies
School of Nursing and Health Studies

Diane M. Millette, Ed.D.
Associate Professor and Chair
Communication Studies Department

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