




The John Knoblock
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: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomás A. Salerno 
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: September 6, 2017

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2017-02(B) – Establishment of an Independent Minor,
College of Arts and Sciences

The Faculty Senate, at its August 30, 2017 meeting, had no objections to the proposal for the creation of an Independent Minor Arts and Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences. This minor was established to allow flexibility for students to create a minor using existing classes, but when no formal minor exists. This is only for fields that currently do not have a major at the University of Miami.

Components of this minor include at least 15-graded credits, one faculty member as point of contact and advisor, declaring this minor in a student's second semester at UM and no later than the end of their junior year when they hold at least an average 2.5 GPA, and vetting the proposal through the Dean or the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.


TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Leonidas Bachas, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Maria Stampino, Sr. Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Karen Beckett, University Registrar

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2017-02(B) – Establishment of an Independent Minor, College of Arts and Sciences

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 10/18/17
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dean Leonidas Bachas

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

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
COLLEGE of
ARTS & SCIENCES




Office of the Dean

1252 Memorial Drive
Ashe Building, Suite 227
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Phone: 305-284-4117
Fax: 305-284-5637
as.miami.edu

TO: Tomas Salerno, Chair
Faculty Senate

FROM: Leonidas Bachas 
Dean

SUBJECT: Proposal for the Creation of an Independent Minor

DATE: April 25, 2017

At the meeting of the College faculty on Tuesday, April 24, 2017, the faculty voted unanimously in favor of the creation of an Independent Minor in the College of Arts and Sciences. A copy of the proposal is attached for your convenience.

I trust that the Senate will add its support and approve the proposal. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

LGB/rkg

**Proposal for an
Independent Minor
in the College of Arts and Sciences**

Contact Information:

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences: Leonidas Bachas, Ph.D. Phone: (305) 284-4021. Email: bachas@miami.edu

Questions about the Proposal: Maria Galli Stampino, Ph.D. Phone: (305) 284-4036. Email: mgstampino@miami.edu

Letter of Explanation

Among the many fields of study present in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Miami, some have majors, others have minors, still others both majors and minors. Other areas offer enough courses at any one time for a student to complete a minor but no such path exists, and administrative and budgetary constraints might make it unwise to prepare a full-fledged minor to include in the Bulletin. In order to allow maximum flexibility for students to pursue minors where classes exist but formalized paths do not, the College proposes the creation of an Independent Minor

Its features are:

- At least 15 graded credits
- One faculty member as point of contact and advisor
- Only available for fields that currently do not have a major in the College or elsewhere at the University of Miami
- Students can declare this minor starting with their second semester at UM and no later than the end of their junior year. A minimum GPA for 2.5 is required to declare this minor. An average of 2.5 is required to continue in the minor
- Vetting of proposal by the Dean or the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, who will consult with the chairpersons of all departments involved in the Independent Minor.

This minor will require students to work closely with a faculty member to select the appropriate courses at a level consistent with each field of study. Given this important element, students will not be able to apply more than two courses (6 credits) already taken to their minor.

In the recent past (AY 15-16 and AY 16-17 to date), students have inquired about minors in: Chinese (10+ inquiries); Japanese (7 inquiries); Forensics (3 inquiries); Cognitive Science (5 inquiries); Animal Studies (2 inquiries). All the above could be completed with the courses routinely offered in the College and elsewhere at UM.

Example: Chinese Studies, including CHI203, CHI310, HIS315, HIS316, POL544

No impact on resources is projected occur. Courses are routinely offered on the basis of existing library collections and faculty expertise.

**Independent Minor
Application Form**

Applicants for the Independent Major in the College of Arts and Science must submit this form, signed by a faculty member, alongside the Program Change Form indicating the addition of the Independent Minor. First-year students, turn it in in Asheitz; everyone else, in Ashezoo.

To apply, you must have completed at least one semester and still have at least two semesters at UM.

Name

C#

Date

Local Address

Phone

Current GPA

City, State, ZIP

E-Mail

PROPOSED CURRICULUM

Please list five courses that will make up your Independent Minor. List as well any pre-requisites that are necessary in order for you to enroll in the courses that you have proposed as your program of study. In all cases, you'll need to include department, number, and title, and star (*) those you have already completed or begun.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Pre-requisites:

Please identify the Cognate Area of the proposed Independent Minor:

_____ A&H

_____ P&S

_____ STEM

RATIONALE for your Independent Minor

Please provide a short paragraph summarizing the rationale for your Minor

The Undersigned faculty member takes responsibility for the courses included in this proposal and will continue to mentor the student throughout the curriculum for the Independent Minor:

Name

Signature

**UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI**



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 28, 2017

TO: Maria Galli Stampino, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
College of Arts and Sciences

FROM: Patty Murphy, Executive Director 
Office of Assessment and Accreditation

RE: New Undergraduate Minor: Independent

On March 23, 2017, the College of Arts and Sciences submitted a proposal notifying my office of its intent to create a new Independent minor within its undergraduate degree programs effective Spring 2018. The College currently offers the following undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Bachelor of Liberal Arts. The new minor will be available within all of these degree programs and will require completion of 15 credit hours. The new minor will allow students flexibility to design a minor in fields where the College does not currently offer a major or minor. Each student will work closely with a faculty member to design the minor which will require approval from the Dean or Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

The proposed new undergraduate minor does not "represent a significant departure, either in content or method of delivery" from what we are currently approved for by our accrediting agency, SACSCOC, due to the following:

- It is simply a repackaging of existing courses.
- The University is already approved to offer an Independent major through the College of Arts and Sciences.
- It is not a distance education program. However, even if this were to change, the University is approved to offer 100% distance education programs so it would not constitute a substantive change.

SACSCOC only requires notification of new programs that represent a significant departure from our current programs. Therefore, no notification or approval is required for this change.

Please contact me if you have any questions at pattymurphy@miami.edu or (305) 284-3276.

CC: Faculty Senate
Leonidas Bachas, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Karen Beckett, University Registrar