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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** UUPC and University Faculty Senate

**FROM:** Interdisciplinary Programs, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

**SUBJECT:** Proposal for a Revised Interdisciplinary Studies Major in DFSCAL

**DATE:** 3/22/2016

**PROPOSAL:** Revised Interdisciplinary Studies Major in DFSCAL

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Currently the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters (DFSCAL) offers two separate Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) degrees: BA in Social Science and BA in Arts and Humanities. Both of these are legacy degrees, inherited by the merging of several colleges earlier in FAU's history. We would like to merge these into a single IDS degree with multiple track options. We believe this would:

- Give students more options  
Currently there are no options for students who wish to pursue interests that bridge the arts, humanities, and social sciences, for example ethnomusicology.
- Assist students transferring in  
Many students transfer into this degree from other colleges, including the College of Education and the College of Business. This combined degree offers us maximum flexibility in considering courses from other colleges within the major, with students able to continue to transfer up to 15 credits from other colleges.
- Streamline the curriculum  
Currently, there are two degrees for what is essentially one. Our current arrangement is redundant.
- Move towards an online degree  
Our previous explorations of an online version of the IDS degree were hampered by the fact that neither the arts/humanities nor the social sciences alone offered enough online courses. We are hoping that merging the two will move us closer to offering the degree online.
- Better prepare students for the job market  
As part of this merger, we are proposing two core classes required of all students, HUM 3949 Arts and Letters Internship (offered by the Career Development Center for all internship and co-

op students) and a new IDS 3890 course we are proposing that focuses on reflection, integration, and professional preparation.

- Better assess the degree

Currently, assessment is challenging because there is no common course majors must take in either of the IDS degrees. With the merged degree, we will have two core courses which will allow us to more accurately assess and improve the degree.

- Protect the degree option

Merging these degree also means merging the number of students in the programs and the number of degrees produced, protecting this program from any indictment of low degree production from the state.

- Offer new degree options with tracks

We propose offering tracks within this degree and using our certificate programs as models for track development. This will allow students with specific interdisciplinary interests (ethnic studies, religious studies) to pursue an interdisciplinary BA reflective of their interests, rather than only a certificate.

### Proposed Tracks

We imagine three base tracks in the degree, which we expect the Registrar would treat with concentration codes:

- IDS for students who wish to propose a plan of study that ranges across the arts, humanities, and social sciences.
- IDS: AH – Arts and Humanities, for students who wish to focus on the arts and humanities.
- IDS: SS – Social Science, for those students who wish to focus on the social sciences

In addition, as a pilot, we are proposing the following track based on our successful certificate program:

- IDS: WGS – Women, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe the certificate offered by our Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is the best model of a specific degree track because:

- The Center has two dedicated core faculty members as well as credentialed GTAs and thus can offer sufficient courses to allow for a BA focus.
- The Center also offers an MA program and thus can offer a connected pipeline for undergraduates who wish to continue their studies here at FAU.
- The existing certificate is well-established with significant student interest.

If this track proves successful then we will pursue tracks for our other certificate programs, including Peace Studies, Religious Studies, Asian Studies, and Caribbean and Latin American Studies.

### Degree Structure

IDS:

- A total of 39 credits towards the major are required, exclusive of general education courses; 30 of these credits must be upper division.
- 15-18 credits must be in a single discipline and at least 12 of these must be upper-division. No more than 18 credits may be taken in any one area.
- Up to 15 credits from another College may be applied to the major

- Students choose a primary area of concentration and develop a plan of study in consultation with the program director. Courses can be taken from across the college.
- All courses for the major must be passed with a grade of “C” or higher and no course taken on a pass/fail basis may be counted for the major.
- All students must take HUM 3949 (for 3 credits) and IDS 3890.

#### IDS—AH:

- A total of 39 credits towards the major are required, exclusive of general education courses; 30 of these credits must be upper division.
- 15-18 credits must be in a single discipline and at least 12 of these must be upper-division. No more than 18 credits may be taken in any one area.
- Up to 15 credits from another College may be applied to the major.
- Students choose a primary area of concentration in the arts and humanities and develop a plan of study in consultation with the program director. Courses can be taken from across the college.
- All courses for the major must be passed with a grade of “C” or higher and no course taken on a pass/fail basis may be counted for the major.
- All students must take HUM 3949 (for 3 credits) and IDS 3890.

#### IDS—SS:

- A total of 39 credits towards the major are required, exclusive of general education courses; 30 of these credits must be upper division.
- 15-18 credits must be in a single discipline and at least 12 of these must be upper-division. No more than 18 credits may be taken in any one area.
- Up to 15 credits from another College may be applied to the major.
- Students choose a primary area of concentration in the social sciences and develop a plan of study in consultation with the program director. Courses can be taken from across the college.
- All courses for the major must be passed with a grade of “C” or higher and no course taken on a pass/fail basis may be counted for the major.
- All students must take HUM 3949 (for 3 credits) and IDS 3890.

#### IDS—WGS:

- A total of 39 credits towards the major are required, exclusive of general education courses; 30 of these credits must be upper division.
- All courses for the major must be passed with a grade of “C” or higher and no course taken on a pass/fail basis may be counted for the major.
- Courses counted towards the major cannot also be counted towards the undergraduate WGSS certificate.
- Students must take two core courses (WST 2010, WST 2608, WST 3315, WST 3930, WST 3640).
- Students must take three additional courses in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These additional courses may include other core courses.
- Students choose develop a plan of study in consultation with the program director. Courses can be taken from across the college but should focus on women, gender, and sexuality.
- All students must take HUM 3949 (for 3 credits) and IDS 3890.

Approved by:

Department Chair:

College Curriculum Chair:

College Dean:

UUPC Chair:

Undergraduate Studies Dean:

UFS President:

Provost:

Date:

3/18/16

3/29/16

3-28-16

4/1/16

4/6/16

