Rationale for MIT Minor Moratorium

The first student to graduate with an MIT Minor was in 2003. Over a period of 10 years, a total of 37 students have graduated with the MIT Minor for an average of less than four students per year. The Table to the right shows the number of MIT Minor graduates on a year by year basis. There are five courses unique to the minor that are not generally taken by students not pursuing a MIT Minor. In terms of resource allocation, it does not make sense to staff and offer five courses per year to graduate on average fewer than four students with an MIT minor each year. There are higher value uses of the faculty, facilities, and funds.

A Moratorium is being requested to allow students currently enrolled in the minor to successfully complete the minor while preventing new students from enrolling and perpetuating the need to over the low enrollment MIT Minor courses. Additionally, there are currently discussions with Computer Science and the College of Arts and Architecture which might provide a pathway for a re-designed MIT Minor that could attract sufficient students to be viable. A moratorium would allow the MIT Minor to remain an option as these discussions progress.

Steps Taken to Date:

1. **Students**: We’ve looked at students in the pipeline. They should all complete by Spring 2014. With a moratorium to prevent a handful of students from enrolling in the Minor, we can easily see the existing students through to graduation.

2. **Faculty**: All faculty teaching courses in the MIT Minor have been contacted. These faculty can easily be re-assigned to other courses to the overall benefit of the College of Business.

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Montana Board of Regents
LEVEL I REQUEST FORM

Item Number: XXX-XXXX+XXXXX  Meeting Date: ____________________________

Institution: Montana State University  CIP Code: ____________________________

Program Title: Management of Information Technology Minor

Level I proposals are those that may be approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education or the Commissioner’s designee. The approval of such proposals will be conveyed to the Board of Regents at the next regular meeting of the Board. The institution must file the request with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education by means of a memo to the Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, by no later than five weeks prior to the final posting date for the next scheduled meeting of the Board. The Deputy Commissioner will review the proposal and respond to the proposing campus with any questions or concerns within one week, allowing the proposing campus one week to respond before the Item is posted for the BOR scheduled meeting.

A. Level I (place an X for all that apply):

   1. Re-titling existing majors, minors, options and certificates

   2. Adding new minors or certificates where there is a major (Submit with completed Curriculum Proposals Form)

   3. Adding new minors or certificates where there is an option in a major (Submit with completed Curriculum Proposals Form)

   4. Departmental mergers and name changes

   5. Program revisions (Submit with completed Curriculum Proposals Form)

   6. Distance or online delivery of previously authorized degree or certificate programs

   7. Placement of program into moratorium (No Program Termination Checklist at this time – document steps taken to notify students, faculty, and other constituents and include this information on checklist at time of termination if not reinstated)

   8. Filing Notice of Intent to Terminate/Withdraw existing majors, minors, options, and certificates (No Program Termination Checklist at this time)

   9. Terminate/withdraw existing majors, minors, options, and certificates (Submit with completed Program Termination Checklist)
Montana Board of Regents
LEVEL I REQUEST FORM

B. Level I with Level II documentation:

With Level II documentation circulated to all campus chief academic officers in advance, the Deputy Commissioner or designee may propose additional items for inclusion in the Level I process. For these items to move forward, the Deputy Commissioner or designee must reach consensus with the chief academic officers. When consensus is not achieved, the Deputy Commissioner or designee will move the item to the Level II review process.

1. Options within an existing major or degree (Submit with completed Curriculum Proposals Form);

2. Eliminating organizational units within larger institutions such as departments, divisions and colleges or schools with the exception of the Colleges of Technology where changes require Board action (Submit with completed Curriculum Proposals Form)

3. Consolidating existing programs and/or degrees (Submit with completed Curriculum Proposals Form)

C. Temporary Certificate or A.A.S. degree programs

Certificate or Associate of Applied Science Degree Programs may be submitted as Level I proposals, with memo and backup documentation, when they are offered in cooperation with and/or at the request of private or public sector partners and the decision point to offer the program is not consistent with the regular Board of Regents program approval process. Level I approval for programs under this provision will be limited to two years. Continuation of a program beyond the two years will require the normal program approval process as Level II Proposals.

All other Level I Certificate or Associate Degree programs may be placed on submission at any Board of Regents meeting. They will be placed on action agendas at subsequent meetings. All campuses agree to insure that all other campuses receive program information well in advance of submission.

D. Campus Certificates

Although certificate programs of 29 credits or fewer may be implemented by the individual campuses without approval by the board of regents, those certificates do need to be reported to the office of the commissioner of higher education and listed on the Montana University System’s official degree and program inventory. These Level I proposals will be listed as information items at the next regular meeting of the board.

Specify Request: