

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discussion/Direction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DATE: 26 March 2024

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Political Science

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Section 1. b) of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty proposed to:

- Add new course POSC 3304U as a core course option for the major
- Add COMM 2311U and POSC 2800U (a new course) as core course options for the Business and Society specialization
- Reduce the number of required courses and add two general electives

POSC 3304U, is designed to be offered in collaboration with the NGO, Common Earth, and thus offers an innovative community-collaborative opportunity. POSC 2800U will bolster current offerings in Business and Society and allow for future program development in this area and may also be attractive to FBIT students.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Offering POSC 3304U may require an additional FSSH course to be offered in the spring/summer term (taught by the Dean). Hopefully this is an investment that brings external funding via partnership with Common Earth.

TRANSITION PLAN:

These changes add courses, and do not take any away, so limited impact is expected. Students, beginning in Fall 2024, may choose to take these toward their degree or as an elective. Changes to the Business and Society specialization will apply to both new and continuing students. Continuing students will be advised of the change as soon as final approval is received.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 5 December 2023
- ✓ Faculty Council: 30 January 2024
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 20 February 2024
- Academic Council (for information): 26 March 2024

Additional consultations with the POSC program committee and the external climate education organization, Common Earth.

NEXT STEPS:

- After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Minor Program Adjustment Proposal](#)
- New Course Proposal: [POSC 3304U](#)
- New Course Proposal: [POSC 2800U](#)