

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

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

**DATE: 25 February 2020**

**FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee**

**SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Minor Program in Sustainability Studies**

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### 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 is proposing to add POSC 3101U, POSC 3800U, and COMM 3350U to the Required courses list; and BIOL 4010U and BIOL 4660U to the list of non-mandatory courses from which students must choose four.

Many courses currently on the list have restrictive prerequisites, remain not-offered, or are offered only every two years. Students have a great deal of difficulty fitting courses into their schedules given the cross-faculty nature of the minor. The addition of these courses allows students more flexibility in scheduling. These topics are also natural fits with the overall goals of the Minor.

### RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The minor program is currently very small so impact is expected to be minimal. This new format allows FSSH to continue offering courses in the same number and manor as it has been.

### TRANSITION PLAN:

Students have already been given exceptions to be able to count POSC 3101U toward their Minor. Until formalized in the Calendar, Advising will allow students to choose core courses based on these proposed changes in the interim.

### CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

USC: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Faculty Council: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Curriculum Committee: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The additions were discussed by BIOL faculty members. Regarding the changes to the format of core course selection, Engineering contacted the Faculty requesting assurances that core courses will be offered regularly enough to allow engineering students to fit the Minor in their schedules. A meeting was held to devise a plan to address this. The proposed changes in this document emerged from this meeting.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- These changes will be included in the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- [Minor Program Adjustment Proposal](#)