

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Notice of intent to plan a new major, Bachelor of General Studies (BA/BS), Alexander/Gabrielson.

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

In the Fall of 2017, the AVP for Undergraduate Education convened a steering committee of faculty and advisors from across campus to explore the creation of a University-wide completion degree. The committee planned new curricula for the proposed Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) that will both resolve issues with currently available completion degrees and provide a high-quality and more accessible degree program for non-traditional students, transfer students with high credit hours, and students with complex curricular interests. The degree is needed because current UW completion degrees do not fully meet student needs. The A&S distributed majors require complex advising and scheduling, courses are largely limited to A&S, and the major is difficult to assess for the Higher Learning Commission (we hope to sunset these with approval of the BGS). The Bachelor of Applied Science and the Bachelor of Business Administration are only offered online and are more circumscribed in content with limited student demand. The proposed BGS will allow us to assess student learning outcomes through the major's capstone course and the degree will include substantive focus areas from colleges across UW. It will provide a flexible degree option for our many adult Wyomingites with some college credits but no degree (and thereby contribute to our statewide educational attainment goals), it will assist students who are facing ineligibility for federal financial aid due to high student credit hours, and will be available to students who, for various reasons, may be unable to complete their originally intended major.

This item is focused on approval of a Notice of Intent to allow us to move forward with obtaining formal approval for this program by the Faculty Senate, Deans and Directors, the Executive Council and other key groups on campus in anticipation of developing a Request for Authorization.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

In May, the Board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted to move this Notice of Intent for BoT approval.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

Per UW Regulation 8-2 (Degrees and Diplomas), all academic programs leading to a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree, or to a professional diploma, must be authorized by the Trustees.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

Required approval of Notice of Intent

PROPOSED MOTION

I move that the Board recommend approval of the Notice of Intent for the new Bachelor of General Studies major.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The President recommends that the degree be forwarded to Academic Affairs, Deans and Directors and Faculty Senate for their input. Pending this outcome, the President recommends that the final curricula be brought to the Board of Trustees for a Request for Authorization in Spring 2019.