Submitted by: Margaret E. Winters, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

ESTABLISHMENT OF A POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the proposal from the School of Business Administration and the Department of Management and Information Systems to establish an online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems, effective fall term 2014.

Background

Certificate programs in business information systems are designed to give individuals a competitive advantage as a job-seeker while also teaching them valuable skills. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems Management (PBISM) is a 24-credit program that provides students with a solid foundation in the field of information systems. The program is in keeping with the University's educational mission and outreach effort and will enable WSU to be more responsive to the varied and emerging educational needs of our community.

Specifically, it has been reported that information systems is a high growth field and a growing employment opportunity in Detroit, MI. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports, "Employment of computer support specialists is expected to increase by 18 percent from 2010 to 2020, which is faster than the average for all occupations. Demand for these workers will result as organizations and individuals continue to adopt the newest forms of technology. As technology becomes more complex and widespread, support specialists will be needed in greater numbers to resolve the technical problems that arise."

Individuals who want to upgrade their skills will find the online PBISM program an attractive option, particularly since we will be among just a handful of U.S. universities and colleges that currently offer the PBISM.

Curriculum Requirements

Candidates for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems Management (PBISM) must complete 24 undergraduate credits -- 15 credits in five required courses and 9 credits in three elective courses. The PBISM is designed to complement students with undergraduate degrees in every area of study with the exception of information systems (since such students will have already taken these courses in their undergraduate major).

Required Core courses (5) -- 15 credits (each course 3 credits):
ISM 3630   Introduction to Business Information Systems

ISM 5820 Systems Analysis and Design (Prereq: ISM 3630)
ISM 5860 Data Communications and Networks (Prereq: ISM 5820)
ISM 5992 Database Systems (Prereq: ISM 3630)
ISM 5994 Software Tools for Business Applications

Elective courses (3) – 9 credits (each course 3 credits):
ISM 4575 Introduction to Corporate Computer Network and IT Security
ISM 5530 Ethics in Information Technology
ISM 5560 Survey of E-commerce
ISM 5570 Data Mining
ISM 6997 Information Systems Policy and Management (Prereq: ISM 5820)

Students must complete all courses with a grade "C" or better and maintain at least a cumulative 2.5 Grade Point Average (GPA) in order to earn the certificate.

Admissions Requirements

A bachelor's degree is required for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems and Management. This program is available to students with a variety of undergraduate backgrounds (except information systems).

Students who received their undergraduate bachelor's degree from Wayne State University should process a change in status at the University Registrar's Office to "Post-Baccalaureate." Students who received an undergraduate degree from another institution of higher education must complete the Application for Undergraduate Admission form and request that official transcripts be sent directly to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Admission requirements for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems are satisfied by the general requirements for undergraduate admission to the university.

Program Administration

The chair of the Department of Management and Information Systems will have general oversight of the certificate program, including advising of students in meeting the departmental requirements.

Job placement assistance will be available through the School's Career Planning and Placement office. They will gather employment data on pre- and post-participants of the PBISM.

Federal Student Aid Eligible

Once approved, the Department of Information Systems Management will comply with the federal Gainful Employment (GE) requirements necessary for federal student aid eligibility. The department will coordinate with the Office of Student Financial Aid to have this new program authorized as Title IV eligible and is prepared to meet the annual disclosure requirements necessary for financial aid eligibility as a non-degree GE program**.**

Budget and Resource Requirements

Although the PBISM incorporates all classes currently offered for ISM undergraduate majors and taught by IS faculty, the proposed program will require an initial investment in fall 2014 of approximately $7,500 for program marketing through print and web media (approximately $3,000) and a continual investment for the hiring of a part-time faculty to teach one course per academic year (salary of $4,500). The funding for these expenses will come from the Office of the Dean.

Accreditation

No accreditation review is required for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems. The program will be reviewed as part of the Academic Program Review of the department.

Approvals

The proposal for the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems in the Department of Management and Information Systems was approved by the Chair and the faculty in the Department of Management and Information Systems and the interim Dean of the School of Business Administration, Margaret L. Williams. Because it is not an interdisciplinary program across schools/colleges, it does not need the approval of the Academic Senate.