College of Arts and Sciences

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April 18, 2018

Professor Meg Daly

Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Approval of the New Bachelor of Science in Sociology

Dear Meg,

The Department of Sociology has proposed a new Bachelor of Science (BS) major. Currently, Sociology offers a Bachelor of Arts major. The credit hours for the proposed BS are consistent with the BA at 39 credits, and includes one newly developed course (Sociology 5650, Presenting and Communicating Quantitative Data). There is one prerequisite course, three core courses, a substantive focus area (Population Dynamics and Wellness; Criminology, Law & Society; Social Inequality), and a required research experience, which includes study abroad opportunities.

The rationale for the BS includes an advancement of the University’s Data Analytics Discovery theme with a focus on empirical inquiry, a more rigorous and research-focused Social Sciences program, and the ability to prepare undergraduate students for a post-graduate degree (i.e., Ph.D. programs in sociology emphasize strong methodological training and prior research experiences). The benefits of a BS program in Sociology will include increased quantitative methods training, the ability for students to work closely with faculty, and clearly structured preparation for those interested in pursuing a graduate degree. Finally, there are a small, but growing number of BS programs in Sociology nationwide, and OSU’s Department of Sociology has a unique opportunity to be among the leaders in this area.

The SBS Panel of the ASCC agreed that the proposed BS major program is worthwhile. The proposal was unanimously approved with four contingencies on February 20, 2018, and fully approved on April 12, 2018. We now advance the proposal to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,



Christina M. Roup

Chair, ASCC SBS Panel