MEMORANDUM

TO: Bonnie Thornton Dill
   Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Establish a Minor in History (PCC Log No. 15023)

At its meeting on February 5, 2016, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to establish a minor in History. A copy of the proposal is attached.

The new minor is effective immediately. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials.

MDC/
Enclosure

cc: Andrew Harris, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Barbara Gill, Office of Enrollment Management
    Reka Montfort, University Senate
    Erin Taylor, Division of Information Technology
    Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
    Anne Turkos, University Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Cynthia Stevens, Office of Undergraduate Studies
    Alene Moyer, College of Arts and Humanities
    Philip Soergel, Department of History
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.
- Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School: ARHU
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01202700
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program: History
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1272301

Type of Action (choose one):
☐ Curriculum change (including informal specializations) ☐ New academic degree/award program
☐ Curriculum change for an LEP Program ☐ New Professional Studies award iteration
☐ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration ☐ New Minor
☐ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration ☐ Request to create an online version of an existing program
☐ Suspend/delete program
Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:
Creation of a History Minor, which would require students to complete 18 credits in History. The Minor will enable the Department to further contribute to the University’s commitment to interdisciplinary learning, provide students in other fields the opportunity to pursue focused work in history, and acknowledge the work (and interests) of the countless students who already complete extensive course work in our department. Distribution requirements include geographic coverage, chronological coverage, and a minimum of 9 credits in 300- and 400- level courses.

Departmental/Unit Contact Person for Proposal: David Freund (Director of UG studies, Department of History)

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair
2. Department Chair
3. College/School PCC Chair
4. Dean
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
6. Chair, Senate PCC
7. University Senate Chair (if required)
8. Senior Vice President and Provost
Proposal for New Instructional Program
University of Maryland, College Park

Minor in History

College of Arts and Humanities
Dean Bonnie Thornton Dill

Submitted: October, 2015
I. OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE

A. Briefly describe the nature of the proposed program and explain why the institution should offer it.

We propose creation of a Minor in History that would consist of 18 credits (6 courses), which would be distributed in at least 2 geographic fields, and include at least one course in each of two chronological periods (pre-1750/post-1750).

The History Department faculty first discussed offering a minor in 2014. After examining programs in our peer institutions and considering the needs of College Park students, we have designed a program that will complement the major and enable more undergraduates to complete extensive and focused work in an area of expertise. Offering a Minor in History would allow the History Department to further engage in the University’s commitment to interdisciplinary learning and would provide students with greater options for gaining expertise in multiple fields. And critically it will provide non-majors (in a variety of fields) with an opportunity to have their interest in—and commitment to—historical thinking acknowledged in their transcript.

There is considerable interest among undergraduates in the proposed History minor. On a regular basis, students contact our office (UG studies) to inquire about the option. Many Maryland undergraduates (in majors including Politics, Sociology, Urban Studies, American Studies, and Jewish Studies) regularly complete a number of courses in history, and so creation of the Minor would provide acknowledgment of their interest and commitment to the field. In effect, we have many “unofficial” minors, or students who are 2 or 3 courses away from fulfilling the requirements proposed here. Indeed, since we have discussed the proposal in the department, a number of students have announced that they plan to add the minor if it is created.

For participants, the Minor would structure their engagement with our department and ensure that they are introduced to a wide range of courses and approaches. It would also acknowledge the concentration for students in other majors who pursue a career in social studies teaching.

B. How big is the program expected to be? From what other programs serving current students, or from what new populations of potential students, onsite or offsite, are you expecting to draw?

Students in other major fields—particularly Government and Politics, Sociology, American Studies, Economics, Journalism, Jewish Studies, Women’s Studies, Education, and Social Studies Education—frequently take history classes to enhance knowledge of their major field. Given the interest regularly expressed for the proposed minor, I would expect at least 25-50 students—and perhaps far more—to consider the option each year.

II. CURRICULUM

A. Provide a full catalog description of the proposed program, including educational objectives and any areas of concentration
The Minor

The History Minor is designed to introduce students to the broad field of historical study, both by deepening their knowledge and understanding of the past and by developing their ability to do critical, historically-minded analysis. In working with both primary and secondary texts, students will hone their skills in research methods, critical thinking, and expository/analytical writing. The requirement that courses are distributed across geographic fields and chronological periods ensures that students consider the variety and range of historical experiences. History courses must be completed with a grade of C- or higher to count toward the minor and students must maintain a 2.0 or higher GPA overall.

B. List the courses (number, title, semester credit hours) that would constitute the requirements and other components of the proposed program. Provide a catalog description for any courses that will be newly developed or substantially modified for the program.

Participating students would be required to complete 18 credits (6 courses) in History. The courses would be distributed in at least 2 geographic fields (Asia, Europe, United States, Middle East, etc.) and would include at least one course in each of two chronological periods (pre-1750/post-1750). A minimum of 9 credits would be required at the 300- or 400- level. No more than 3 credits (1 course) may be at the 100- level, and no more than 3 credits (1 course) can be fulfilled by AP, IB, or transfer credit.

Note: No more than 6 credits (2 courses) may be applied to satisfy both the requirements of a minor and a major program. No course may be used to satisfy the requirements of more than one minor.

The following example shows one of countless possible combinations that a History Minor might pursue. This sample might be appropriate, for example, for a major in Government & Politics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Geographic field</th>
<th>Time period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST120: Islamic Civilization</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>Pre-1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST225: Modern Military History</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Post-1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST353: The American Revolution</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Post-1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST441: Germany 1914-Present</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Post-1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST436: Napoleon, The French Revolution, and the World</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Post-1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST442: Twentieth Century Russia</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Post-750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Describe any selective admissions policy or special criteria for students selecting this field of Study

Any student is eligible to pursue the minor, with the exception of a student majoring in History.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

A. List the program’s learning outcomes and explain how they will be measured

By minoring in History, students will learn to distinguish among a variety of primary and secondary sources (e.g. documents, monographs, letters, novels, film, political cartoons, essays), to analyze them in context, and to develop arguments through expository writing. Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct research using primary and secondary sources including archival, print and non-print, and web-based texts. Students will demonstrate these abilities through completing course work that meets the standards of the History Department and individual instructors. Students must earn a “C-” or higher in each of the six required courses and maintain a 2.0 GPA overall.

B. Include a general assessment plan for the learning outcomes

Learning outcomes will be assessed through satisfactory completion of coursework, including midterm and final exams, papers, reports, etc. All courses must be taken for a grade and no course with a grade of less than C- may be used toward the minor. Students must have a minimum 2.0 grade point across all courses submitted for the minor.

IV. FACULTY AND ORGANIZATION

A. Who will provide academic direction and oversight for the program?

The History Minor will be administered through the History Department Director of Undergraduate Studies office, which includes the History Undergraduate Advising Office. Two part-time Graduate Assistants will provide regular one-on-one advising for History Minors. The Undergraduate Advisor is available to discuss student’s interests and address their particular needs.

B. If the program is not to be housed and administered within a single academic unit, provide details of its administrative structure.

Not applicable
V. OFF CAMPUS PROGRAMS

A. If the program is to be offered to students at an off-campus location, with instructors in classrooms and/or via distance education modalities, indicate how student access to the full range of services (including advising, financial aid, and career services) and facilities (including library and information facilities, and computer and laboratory facilities if needed) will be assured.

Not applicable

B. If the program is to be offered mostly or completely via distance education, you must describe in detail how the concerns in Principles and Guidelines for Online Programs are to be addressed.

Not applicable

VI. OTHER ISSUES

A. Describe any cooperative arrangements with other institutions or organizations that will be important for the success of this program.

Not applicable

B. Will the program require or seek accreditation? Is it intended to provide certification or licensure for its graduates? Are there academic or administrative constraints as a consequence?

Not applicable

VII. COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Identify specific actions and strategies that will be utilized to recruit and retain a diverse student body.

The Department of History offers a wide variety of courses at all levels that examine the breadth of human history and the range of perspectives on that history. By providing instruction in many geographical areas and historical subfields, (such as Technology & Environment, Women & Gender, Military History, Global Interaction & Exchange, etc.), the department will ensure that its Minor will appeal to all interested students and that it will provide opportunities to delve into subjects that will help students understand the diversity of human experience.
VIII. REQUIRED PHYSICAL RESOURCES

A. Additional library and other information resources required to support the proposed program. You must include a formal evaluation by Library staff

None. The History Minor can be operated without any additional library or information resources beyond those already available at the university.

B. Additional facilities, facility modifications, and equipment that will be required. This is to include faculty and staff office space, laboratories, special classrooms, computers

None. The minor would involve no added costs. While the minor will draw more students into history courses, the department has ample room in its curriculum and among its faculty to serve these needs. Meanwhile the current advising staff (the Undergraduate Director and two part-time GAs) has the resources to deal with a slight increase in demand for student advising.