PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL: Section Specific Course Titles

SPONSOR: Educational Policy Committee

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Using new functionality in the Banner student system, departments may assign differing course titles for each section of courses that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Courses such as special topics/issues courses, seminars, etc., that are designed to offer differing topics on a temporary, periodic or as needed basis. These courses should routinely offer sections with differing topics that are clearly marked in the *Class Schedule* (formerly *Timetable*) and have enrollments greater than one student. Courses such as individual study, thesis, special problems, etc. where students work individually with faculty do not qualify.

   This functionality should not be used to bypass the normal course approval process. If a section of a special topics/issues course has an enrollment that averages twenty or more for the semesters in which it is offered during two consecutive academic years, the topic may be offered in the third year only if a proposal to establish it as a regular course is submitted in the normal manner promptly after the beginning of the second semester of the second year of such enrollment. The topic may be offered with a section specific title in the third and subsequent years (whatever the enrollment then proves to be) only until a decision is made on the proposal of a regular course. If the regular course proposal is approved, the topic may then be offered only in that form; if the regular course proposal is disapproved, the topic may not be offered again.

2. Courses where the listing of specific section titles on a student transcript is required by a reviewing agency (e.g. state teacher certification).

3. Courses where sections are variations on a central course theme and the section titles denote a difference in the area of application of that theme. For example, a course called Computer Programming might have sections called Programming with C++, Programming with Java, etc.

The Office of Facility Management and Scheduling (FMS), in coordination with the Office of the Provost, will maintain a list of courses approved for section specific courses titles based on the criteria stated above and periodically monitor the use of section specific course titles.

JUSTIFICATION: In UI Direct there was a very limited and cumbersome process by which different course titles could be assigned to each section of a course. Because of the complexity of this process, it was managed centrally and strictly limited to a handful of courses with particular structural needs for differing section titles.

However, the new student system, Banner, contains a much simpler and manageable tool for modifying the title of specific sections. Rather than being centrally controlled, the person responsible for building and maintaining the *Class Schedule* in each department will be able to change the section titles for the courses in his/her department.

This new functionality could prove invaluable for special topics and seminars courses. Rather than transcripts showing generic titles such as "Undergraduate Open Seminar" or "Special Topics in..." they now can show the more descriptive and informative section title. This could be particularly beneficial to students whose transcripts will now contain more meaningful course titles that reflect the specific course content.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: None.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed: None.

b. Internal reallocations: None.

c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments: Not applicable.

d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.: None

CLEARANCES:

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2005