

February 22, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Senate Steering Committee

From: Susan Awbrey  
Chair of UCUI

Re: Proposal for the Bachelors of Criminal Justice

The University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction reviewed a proposal from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work to create a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. Two lead reviewers were assigned to examine the proposal in depth. After committee members read the proposal, the in-depth reviewers presented their findings and the full committee deliberated on the proposal. A number of questions arose that were subsequently referred to the Department. Responses to UCUI's questions are attached to this report.

UCUI voted unanimously to support the proposal for a new baccalaureate degree in Criminal Justice.

**Overview:**

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work proposed a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. The degree will draw on the current concentration in criminal justice in the sociology major. The program supports the university vision and strategic plan and aligns with the goals of the College of Arts and Sciences. The proposed program is similar to programs at other Michigan institutions, but can be distinguished from them in three ways: it has an interdisciplinary component, it requires an internship, and it requires a capstone. Two of the major's six specializations are significantly interdisciplinary – Information Security and Assurance, and Homeland Security. The program intends to begin with 25 students and build to 250 by the fifth year. The Department currently has three full-time professors teaching criminal justice, one special lecturer, and two part-time instructors. The proposal calls for three new tenure track faculty in criminal justice and two with specializations in methods and statistics. In addition the proposal requires one full-time AP to act as internship coordinator and advisor.

Strengths:

1. UCUI notes that the program is both well written (clearly stating requirements) and the program is rigorous.
2. The program's requirements for interdisciplinary study, an internship, and a capstone research project make it distinctive.
3. The specializations in homeland security and information security and assurance are likely to insure program growth.
4. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts job growth in areas of employment for holders of this degree.
5. The program is consistent with university and college missions.

Concerns:

1. UCUI's major concern is the need for five full-time faculty members in five years. The committee believes this need is justified if the program grows as predicted, but finds it to be a large number to obtain during a five year period.
2. A number of other concerns were address in the attached set of responses to UCUI's questions. UCUI members considered the responses of the Department as adequate to address their concerns.