

Consent Agenda Item:

Request from the Department of Philosophy, School of Government and Public Policy, Department of Economics, Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences for authorization to implement a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law

Projected Effective Date: Fall 2010

Purpose / Justification:

The Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law (PPEL) program should be enormously attractive to excellent students, most especially Honors College students, who aspire to careers in such professions as law, business, and government. Students who complete the PPEL degree might find their vocation at a private law firm or a legal aid clinic, in the corporate world or as individual entrepreneurs, in government or at public policy institutes, or at private foundations or international NGO's. Many PPEL graduates will pursue post-baccalaureate degrees. The PPEL program would provide students with the sort of undergraduate experience typically associated with those outstanding liberal arts institutions and honors programs that are established conduits into the professions. At the same time, the setting of PPEL within the broader University of Arizona community would assure students access to all the resources of a major research university.

The PPEL major is designed to promote sustained philosophical reflection on the interrelations of political, legal, and economic activities and institutions. Although students would learn the basic tools of economic analysis, it is envisaged that the major will also be grounded on the humanistic tradition, encouraging analytical and critical reflection on the fundamental values that shape, or should shape, the economic, political, and legal domains. The aim is to acquaint students with formal analyses while also encouraging deep understanding of the moral and historical foundations of economic institutions and political-legal structures. Graduates shall excel in logical and analytical thinking focused on the increasingly large and important international domain where public and private sectors face common ethically-charged challenges.

Sources of Funding:

No new State funds are required to support the proposed major. Faculty to be hired on existing private gifts and external grants of \$695,500 annually to the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom will participate in the PPEL program, as will current faculty in the Departments of Philosophy and Economics and the School of Government and Public Policy. To ensure the appropriate ratio of outstanding faculty to students and to provide for excellent advising and program management, the major will require, as a complement to its very substantial private support, a program fee of \$500 per semester (\$1,000 per year) for declared PPEL majors.

Approvals:

Undergraduate Council: 3/9/2010

Graduate Council: N/A

College Academic Administrators Council:

Team Provost:

Faculty Senate: