



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: CREATION OF A MASTER OF ARTS IN EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION

We propose to establish a Master of Arts degree in European Union Studies (MAEUS). This master's degree is modeled on degrees in existing area studies: Centers in African Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Like these degrees, the MAEUS will serve doctoral students who wish to add area expertise to their doctorate, professional students who wish to combine area studies with a professional degree, and students seeking a master's degree before entering business or government service. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) will provide administrative oversight for the degree, while day-to-day administration of the degree will be handled by the European Union Center (EUC) and International Programs and Studies (IPS). The division of labor between LAS, the EUC, and IPS is described in an attached Memorandum of Agreement (See Attachment 1).

JUSTIFICATION

The European Union (EU) represents an unprecedented form of supranational governance encompassing more than 455 million people in a wealthy region at the center of the global economy that spans 3.9 million square kilometers. In the next few years, these numbers are likely to increase as the EU prepares to accept several additional member states. A work in progress, the EU is also undergoing important and unprecedented developments of political and economic institutions and international security arrangements, whose workings the next generation of academicians and professionals must understand.

Though building an “ever closer union,” the member countries of the European Union also exhibit many differences. The EU represents a political, economic, and cultural area built on the diversity of twenty official national languages and several sub national ones, large numbers of believers from several major world religions, and dozens of ethnic identities. This makes for an intellectually exciting and enriching object of study. Moreover, governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trade groups, academic institutions and not-for-profit (NFP) organizations in the United States and worldwide who interact with European correlates, must do so within the expanding context of the European Union. As such, the demand for individuals with specialized training in EU matters has never been greater and will continue to grow dramatically.

At Illinois, student interest in the EU has grown in parallel with the emergence of the EU itself. To accommodate this growing interest, the European Union Center has for the past seven years offered a two-semester interdisciplinary graduate research seminar (Political Science 501 and Political Science 502). Average enrollments in the seminar have increased from about 12 students per semester in 1998/99 to about 20 students a semester presently.

Demand is now sufficiently strong to introduce an interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree in European Union Studies. Data from established MA programs in European Union Studies at such peer institutions as Georgetown University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which have deep and well qualified candidate pools allowing for selective admissions, suggest that a cohort of 20 students (the initial target number) would be attainable.

While the EUC’s interdisciplinary graduate research seminars attract students from every college on the campus, most participants have come from professional schools, such as law, business, and education, and departments with professional degree programs, such as urban and regional planning. The MAEUS degree would provide a focus for their interests, giving them an opportunity to bring area expertise into their professional careers. The MAEUS degree would also serve as a natural destination for graduates from LAS’s new major in International Studies and similar programs elsewhere. This master’s degree is also critical to an area studies center seeking to maintain its status as a National Resource Center (NRC). The EUC is one of 11 National Resource Centers whose focus is on Europe or the European Union. Maintaining such a designation—and the stable long-term programmatic support that such a designation engenders—is a major goal of the EUC and IPS. The U.S. Department of Education awards Title VI NRC grants to universities to establish, strengthen, and operate comprehensive area studies centers. Such centers are intended to be national resources for teaching modern foreign languages, offering instruction in fields need to provide full understanding of areas in which the language is used, and fostering research and training in area studies. NRCs are also required to provide outreach and consultative services on national, regional, and local bases, maintain linkages with overseas institutions of higher education, maintain specialized library collections, and employ scholars engaged in training and research related to their subject areas.

Intellectual Coherence of the Field. At the University of Illinois, EU-related course offerings may be found in political science, economics, sociology, law, agricultural and consumer economics, and urban and regional planning, among others. These programs provide the depth and specialization necessary to support advanced study of the European Union and EU-US relations from particular disciplinary perspectives. (See Attachment 2)

There is also a recognizable and growing volume of interdisciplinary scholarship in the field of European Union Studies. This is evident in the work of the University of Illinois' own faculty members, who cross disciplinary and college lines in their researches on the European Union (see Attachment 3), as well as in academic communities of EU scholars elsewhere. The European Union, and its predecessor, the European Economic Community, have long attracted interdisciplinary interest. Meetings of the European Union Studies Association provide a transatlantic forum for the exchange of interdisciplinary research findings. The Journal of Common Market Studies, the oldest journal in this field, publishes articles from economics, law, political science, sociology, and other disciplines. Other outlets for interdisciplinary scholarship include the European Law Journal, European Union Politics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of European Public Policy, and a wide range of journals, newsletters, and official publications sponsored by the various organs of the European Union itself.

Expertise of Existing University of Illinois Staff. The European Union Center draws upon the expertise of faculty from departments across campus, providing a broad range of disciplinary knowledge. More than 200 faculty members currently teach or conduct research related to Europe; of these at least seventy are affiliated with the EUC. Sixteen faculty members from the Colleges of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES), Business, Communications, Education, Engineering, Fine and Applied Arts (FAA), Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), Law, and Veterinary Medicine provide academic leadership for EU-related teaching, research, and outreach through their active participation on the center's faculty advisory board. In recent years new faculty hires with multidisciplinary interests and a European area focus have been attracted to the university in part because of the presence of the Center. See Attachment 3 for a discussion of EU-related research and teaching by selected University of Illinois faculty.

Career Opportunities for Graduates of the Master's Degree. Because the European Union is the largest economy in the world, it represents many career opportunities. These are found in Europe, the United States, and in the community of professionals working on both sides of the Atlantic. Graduates of Master's Degrees at Georgetown and University of North Carolina that focus on Europe have found career opportunities in the private and non-profit sectors, education, Foreign Service, government, international banking, journalism, and think tanks. Opportunities in these areas will only increase as the European Union continues to expand and develop. The relative scarcity of programs with a specialized focus in EU studies will give our graduates a competitive advantage in this field.

While the degree can accommodate students preparing for further academic study in a particular discipline, the primary targets are students preparing for careers in government,

business, and the professions. The degree will provide broad exposure to the history, cultures, societies, and politics of the European Union and the European area, as well as to a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to its study.

The MAEUS degree will also be attractive to students pursuing graduate degrees in engineering and the applied sciences. Coverage of such issues as technical policy-making and standard-setting, intellectual property rights, transportation systems, information technologies, and agricultural practices in the European Union is provided in MAEUS courses and will add to the marketability of these students.

Examples of Illinois graduates, now employed in professional careers, whom might have benefited from the MAEUS program include Paige Snider, MUP 1995, who headed the Kiev office for DAI (Development Alternatives Incorporated); Jeanie Bukowski, Ph.D. in Political Science 1996, who teaches European Union Studies at Bradley University; Bryan Endres, Law 1999, who worked in an international trade law firm and now teaches Agricultural Law at the University of Illinois; Tobias Faupel, Ph.D. in Economics 2001, who is currently on staff at Deutsche Bank, and Nazmiye Balta, Ph.D. in Regional Planning 2004, who is a research fellow in environmental policy at the Policy Studies Institute in London.

Language Skills. Because of the degree's professional focus, students pursuing the MAEUS degree will need language preparation sufficient to support development of a technical vocabulary in fields such as business, law, and agriculture. If the University of Illinois does not offer instruction in a less-commonly-taught language, intensive instruction—say, in a summer foreign language program at another university—will be substituted for instruction at Illinois.

While the degree does not formally require any courses as prerequisites, it does require language skills at the third-year level. This means that students will likely have some appropriate language training before beginning their degree. Because the European Union's lingua franca is English, some research projects will not require use of a student's language skills. As a result, use of foreign language sources is not a requirement for the (optional) thesis project, although it is recommended. Students placed in an internship in an agency or firm in Europe must demonstrate sufficient aptitude with the technical language in which business is transacted or research is conducted.

Relation to Other Programs at the University of Illinois. Like other master's degrees in area studies, the MAEUS degree will complement existing programs. Because these degrees are defined by geographical area, they do not generally overlap. The recent accession of some East European countries to the European Union (such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland) will result in some complementary cross-coverage with the Center for Russia, East European and Eurasian Studies (REEEC). The EUC enjoys particularly good working relations with REEEC, and it collaborates each year with other area studies centers, the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), the Center for Global Studies (CGS), and the Program in Arms Control

Disarmament and International Security in staging a Joint Area Studies Symposium and other programming.

The MAEUS degree will also complement PhD programs in many departments, especially the social sciences, and may provide an opportunity for students to pursue two degree programs, especially in fields such as law, business, education, architecture and planning, library and information science, and veterinary science.

Program Administration and Oversight. The MAEUS degree will be administered by the European Union Center in International Programs and Studies by the Director and a full-time Program Coordinator. Oversight for the curriculum will be provided by the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In keeping with conditions of U.S. Department of Education funding of National Resource Centers, the Center's faculty advisory board will arrange for on-campus and external evaluation of the degree program at regular intervals.

Comparison with Programs of European Studies at Other Universities. There are many area studies programs with a European focus at universities in the United States, but there are few programs of study with a specific focus on the European Union and that offer training for professional degree students. We believe that such a program at the University of Illinois will attain a high level of excellence and enjoy a position of national prominence for the following reasons:

Existing programs in international relations/affairs/studies tend to offer little more than a few courses on European topics (History, Political Science, Economics), or, at best, an elective concentration of such courses that can account for 1/3 or less of the program. Even those that do focus on the European Union, such as the Transatlantic Master's (TAM) program at the University of North Carolina, the Master of Arts in Germanic and European Studies (MAGES) at Georgetown University, and the new 'Europaeum Master of Arts Programme' offered jointly by a consortium of European universities, are far less oriented to professional degree students—e.g., students in agricultural sciences, business, educational policy, engineering, industrial relations, journalism, law, library science, urban planning, or veterinary medicine—than the MAEUS degree we propose. These other programs focus on liberal arts disciplines (comparative politics, history and cultural studies, economics and international relations), multiple foreign languages, or the EU in the context of European History and Civilization. We believe that the focus of the MAEUS on career-oriented, professional training will be very attractive to European and international students. The EUC at the University of Illinois is unique among EU Centers in the United States because of its strong ties with professional schools as well as departments more traditionally associated with area studies (e.g., anthropology, history, languages, political science, and sociology).

The European Union Center has twice competed successfully against other US universities for the Center designation and funding from the European Commission on the basis of the University of Illinois faculty's comparative strength in scholarship on,

and working knowledge of, the EU and its political and economic institutions. It has also achieved recognition as a National Resource Center in European Union Studies from the US Department of Education, with substantial annual funding under the Title VI program.

The Center enjoys close working relationships with representatives of the EU government and key industries and universities that are centrally involved in the development of EU policies. In view of the recent expansion of the EU to the east, the University of Illinois is, by virtue of its strength in Eastern European Studies, well positioned to offer a strong program of training for professional degree students interested in these areas.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

Organizational Issues. The MAEUS will be administered by a Program Coordinator, who will manage admissions, financial aid, and advising in consultation with the Center Director and faculty advisory board sub-committees. This position will be funded by International Programs and Studies (see Attachment 4). Teaching of the seminars will be a responsibility of the EUC Director and/or Coordinator. Additional instruction will be provided by the nine colleges now delivering approved courses (see Attachment 3). The location of the EUC in IPS will facilitate development of study abroad and internship programs supporting the MAEUS.

Staff and Budgetary Requirements. The MAEUS degree is part of an undertaking whose long-term objective is a vibrant area studies center at the University of Illinois focusing on the European Union, including contemporary western and central Europe. The services of an MA Program Coordinator will be required (see Attachment 4).

Operations of the EUC are presently funded by a combination of external and state funds through IPS. Initial funding for the Center was provided by the European Commission of the EU, with matching resources from the University of Illinois. The most obvious external source to replace this funding is the United States Department of Education (USDE). In 2003 the USDE designated the Center as a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Program and awarded the Center, for the 2003-2006 period, \$723,000 in support of its NRC programs and \$372,000 in FLAS Fellowships. In 2006-2010, the EUC has an NRC grant of \$206,857 and FLAS funds of \$134,000 each year for four years.

As part of its application to the USDE programs, under which the European Union Center won designation as a National Resource Center, the Center committed to establishing an MA program in European Studies. With current Title VI funding and future tuition income from fee-paying students, a need for additional state funding is not anticipated. Apart from FLAS fellowships, there will be no other programmatic funding for graduate students.

Internal Reallocations Needed. The EUC has offered an interdisciplinary graduate seminar in each semester of its seven-year existence, either as part of the Director's

responsibilities or with funding from IPS and other sources. Support for the Program Coordinator (one FTE staff person) will come from USDE funding and IPS.

With the addition of the MA degree, the EUC will regularize staffing for these seminars. This will require formalizing a teaching load reduction for the Director or other person teaching this course. Again, this does not represent any new uses of university resources in practice but does represent a formalization of these uses. IU dollars will help defray these internal reallocation costs.

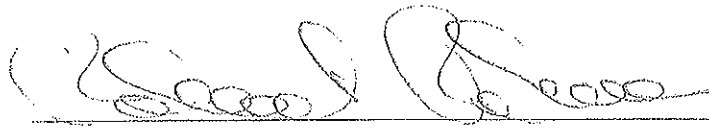
Currently, the EUC is applying to offer core MAEUS courses under its own subject, just as REEEC and the Global Studies Center do. The fall semester version of this course will become EURO 501, with the spring semester version becoming EURO 502. The EUC will create two other courses as part of this program, EURO 598 and EURO 599 for study abroad or internship placement and thesis research. Study abroad will occur under existing programs, such as the European business program offered MBA students in Leuven.

Effect on Course Enrollments in other Departments. Much of the MAEUS program relies on existing courses in departments across campus. At the 500-level, this program may enable departments to offer courses that currently do not attract enough students to be offered regularly. The department heads of French, German, and Spanish have mentioned the positive benefits to be gained from higher enrollment in 400-level courses. (See Attachment 6) The MAEUS degree will generate interest in developing new 500-level courses, with some course development funded by EUC NRC grants. The EUC already offers grants to develop new courses and revise existing ones at the undergraduate level.

Impact on Library and Computer Use. The resources needed by students pursuing this degree are already part of the University of Illinois Library collections because of the research interests of Illinois faculty. The Law Library is an official depository for publications of the European Union, and students in the EU seminar already rely on this collection as well as using other library collections on campus. The Center is currently working with Lynne Rudasill in the social science library to inventory the various collections of EU and European documents across campus. The Center's 2003-05 NRC grant funded over \$70,000 in library acquisitions.

Student Funding. In addition to NRC funding from USDE, the EUC received funding totaling \$372,000 for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships during the 2003-05 Title VI cycle (\$100,000 annually for academic-year awards and \$24,000 annually for summer awards). In 2006-2010, the EUC has an NRC grant of \$206,857 and FLAS funds of \$134,000 each year for four years. FLAS fellowships will be offered to students in the master's program who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Students are eligible to compete for other fellowships at the campus level, and can obtain need-based financial aid from the Office of Student Financial Aid.

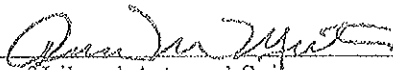
CLEARANCES



European Union Center Director



Associate Provost for International Affairs



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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



8/26/08

Graduate College

Provost