

To: the Administrative Boards  
From: Kenneth Janken  
Date: March 23, 2009  
Re: Counting certain cross-disciplinary minors as clusters

In order to increase the number of clusters I suggest that we consider including certain cross-disciplinary minors as fulfilling the integrative option for the supplemental general education requirement.

Currently there are seven clusters operating, with one more (Memory studies) set to begin and three others (Mesoamerica, Sports, Race and anti-racism, and Crime) in various stages of formation. It is not yet clear how many students are taking the integrative option – institutional research has not yet completed its report – but it does not appear as if there are enough clusters to sustain the program.

Certain cross-disciplinary minors come very close to fulfilling the spirit of the integrative option: American Indian Studies; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; Cognitive Science; Archeology; Sustainability. Generally they don't meet the requirements of a cluster in one of two ways. Either they allow but do not require students to cross divisional lines in fulfilling the minor (which is the case with Cognitive Science and Sustainability), or one or more of the courses in the minor is numbered below 200. (The one required course for American Indian Studies is AMST/HIST 110, but all of the other courses are above 199.)

I think it is worthwhile to talk with departments that house cross-disciplinary minors to see if they are open to modifying these minors to require students to cross divisional lines and to make sure that students take at least three courses above 199. If the departments agree, then I think the minors should count toward fulfilling the integrative option.