December 17, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jayanth Banavar
    Dean, College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
    Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Minor in Astronomy (PCC log no. 12022)

The proposal to modify the minor in Astronomy has been administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2013. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/
Enclosure

cc: WilliamIdsardi, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Reka Montfort, University Senate
    Erin Howard, Division of Information Technology
    Donna Williams, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
    Anne Turkos, University Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Robert Gaines, Office of Undergraduate Studies
    Robert Infantino, College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences
    Stuart Vogel, Department of Astronomy
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.
- Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School:
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01203000
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hxpprod.umd.edu/Html_Report/units.htm

Department/Program:
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1300301

Type of Action (choose one):
X Curriculum change (including informal specializations)  □ New academic degree/award program
□ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration □ New Professional Studies award iteration
□ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration □ New Minor
□ Suspend/delete program □ Other

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

We propose to formally include two new courses, ASTR 230 and ASTR 305, in the list of courses which fulfill the requirements for the Astronomy minor.

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APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair  Eric McKenzie, Eric McKenzie  10/24/12
2. Department Chair  Stuart Vogel  10/24/12
3. College/School PCC Chair  Robert Infanso  10/31/12
4. Dean  Jayanth Bhanvar  11/1/12
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)  
6. Chair, Senate PCC  William  12/7/2012
7. University Senate Chair (if required)  
8. Senior Vice President and Provost  12/20/2012
PCC Proposal: Adding ASTR 230 and ASTR 305 to the List of Courses Which Fulfill the Requirements for the Astronomy Minor

ASTR 230 and 305 are new courses which were recently approved by VPAC and also for inclusion in the General Education I-Series program; they will be taught at least annually beginning in Spring 2013. We wish to include them in the list of courses which fulfill the requirements for the Astronomy minor. The new courses’ target audience is comparable to that of the existing courses on the list, and they are appropriate for the stated goal of the minor, “to provide students with a background in astronomy that focuses on answering the fundamental questions about our origins that humans have pondered over the ages.”

The requirements for the minor are listed below, with the proposed changes in a different font.

**Minor Requirements (15-19 credits):**

**Two Lower Level Requirements (6-10 credits)**

1. Completion of a course or sequence that provides an overview of the universe. Options include any one of the following:
   1. ASTR 100 (Introduction to Astronomy) (3 credits)
   2. ASTR 101 (General Astronomy) (4 credits)
   3. ASTR 120 and 121 (Astrophysics 1 and 2) (7 credits)
   4. or equivalent transfer course(s)

2. Completion of one course from among the following:
   1. ASTR 220 (Collisions in Space) (3 credits)
   2. ASTR 230 (The Science and Fiction of Planetary Systems) (3 credits)

**Upper Level Requirements (9 credits)**

Completion of three courses from among the following:

1. ASTR 300 (Stars and Stellar Systems)
2. ASTR 305 (Astronomy and the Media)
3. ASTR 330 (Solar System Astronomy)
4. ASTR 340 (Origin of the Universe)
5. ASTR 380 (Life in the Universe)
6. or an upper level astronomy course approved by the advisor.

No new resources are required for these changes. We currently anticipate offering ASTR 220 and some of the listed 300-level courses less frequently to make room for the new courses. As a result of the change, students will have more flexibility in their choice of courses for the minor.

Eric McKenzie, ASTR Undergraduate Director, 10/24/12