ACAP
Agenda Item 2b
7/14/10

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

Program Planning Summary

Bachelor of Arts
Jewish Studies Major

School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs

April 7, 2010

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President

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Designation of New Program: Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

1. **Number of credit hours in program: 36.**

2. **Years in program: 4.**

3. **STEM Program Designation: Not applicable.**

4. **Proposed date of implementation: Fall 2011.**

5. **Justification of need for the proposed program:**

The goal of a Jewish Studies major is to enable students to understand the diversity and complexity of the Jewish experience. As a cultural and religious system with a history that crosses a spectrum of temporal, geographic, and cultural contexts, the Jewish tradition contains manifold elements. Students will acquire a sophisticated understanding of the historical, religious, philosophical, literary, sociological, and linguistic components that constitute the Jewish experience, as well as an armory of interpretative and analytical skills that can be applied within and across a broad range of disciplines.

Jewish Studies is a firmly established program at the College of Charleston, having offered a minor since 1990 (enrollment data to follow below). Its offerings complement the work of other interdisciplinary majors on campus, such as International Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. These majors have recently been approved, and so a major in Jewish Studies would continue the institution's path toward the development of our interdisciplinary programs. The College's current strategic plan calls for the selective pursuit of new programs that serve the specific needs of the Charleston community. The Jewish Studies program provides extensive programming for the public, often focused on the rich history of Jews in the region, and enjoys strong community support. The growth of the program into a major will only strengthen the institution's ties to the community.

Since the late 1960s, Jewish Studies programs, like the other interdisciplinary fields just mentioned, have experienced explosive growth. The Association for Jewish Studies currently lists around 175 such programs at American and Canadian colleges and universities. More than 90 of these programs now offer an undergraduate major in Jewish Studies. Very few of these major programs, however, are in our region. In the Southeast U.S., only Florida, Miami, Tulane, and Virginia now offer majors in Jewish Studies. Even schools like Emory and North Carolina, which have far more resources and much larger programs in Jewish Studies, are not yet offering majors. At the College of Charleston — the only institution in South Carolina offering even a minor in Jewish Studies, and a historic center of Jewish life in America — we are in a unique position to be able to start an undergraduate major without a significant expansion in personnel. We now have two tenure-track faculty members in Jewish Studies, an ongoing full-time instructor in Hebrew language, a newly endowed half-time visiting professorship, a half-time instructorship in Holocaust studies, and a strong corps of affiliated faculty teaching in the program.

The Jewish Studies Program's academic offerings have expanded greatly over the past four years, with the appointment of our tenure-track faculty. Both the number of courses we offer and the number of students in those courses has steadily increased:

2004-2005:	**139 students in 5 sections**
2005-2006:	**105 students in 4 sections**
2006-2007:	**173 students in 9 sections***
2007-2008:	**177 students in 8 sections**
2008-2009:	**227 students in 10 sections**
2009-2010:	**309 students in 11 sections****

*** first tenure-track appointment**
**** second tenure-track appointment**

Enrollments in Hebrew courses have also increased over the same time period. Below are the fall enrollments for HBRW 101:

Fall 2004:	**18**	**Fall 2007:**	**28**
Fall 2005:	**17**	**Fall 2008:**	**37**
Fall 2006:	**19**	**Fall 2009:**	**35**

We expect that interest in our courses will only increase, especially since our Jewish history survey courses, JWST 210 and 215, now count for General Education credit. We thus have an unprecedentedly large audience from which to recruit new minors and majors. In fact, the number of minors has expanded dramatically with our new hires. As recently as two years ago, we had less then 10 minors; we now have 23, and expect to enroll more this semester.

Given the growth in our faculty, our minor, and the demand for our courses, we are now in a position to offer a major. As the only Jewish Studies major program in our state, and one of very few in our region, our proposed new program would make a highly distinctive contribution to the College of Charleston, to the state, and to the region.

6. Anticipated program demand and productivity:

We anticipate that the demand for our new major will be small but healthy, perhaps five majors per year at the start, but expanding to ten or more per year as the program is established. At least three current students have already asked if they could graduate with the major, even though the major is not anticipated to start until 2011-2012. At the same time, we do not expect that the quality or viability of the program will be dependent on a large number of majors. Demand for our courses has already increased dramatically. With the exception of a senior seminar for majors (which can also serve minors), we can offer the option of a major with the curriculum and personnel that we already have.

7. Assessment of extent to which the proposed program duplicates existing programs in the state:

This would be the first Jewish Studies major in the state. The only other Jewish Studies program in the state, that of the University of South Carolina, is relatively young and is only now instituting a minor.

8. Relationship of the proposed program to existing programs at the proposing institution:

As an interdisciplinary program, Jewish Studies complements the work of other interdisciplinary programs on campus, such as African-American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, International Studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The College of Charleston is strongly committed to the development of these interdisciplinary programs, which expand the boundaries of academic inquiry and offer students new and distinctive options.

9. Relationship of the proposed program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation:

We have had productive discussions with the Jewish Studies faculty at the University of South Carolina, focusing on ways in which we can work together to develop our programs without duplicating the work of the other. Their first priorities were to develop a graduate certificate and then a minor, while we were to concentrate on expanding our longstanding minor into a major. We will continue to explore ways in which faculty in one program could offer courses at the other institution through distance learning or faculty exchanges.

10. Total new costs associated with implementing the proposed program (general estimates):

Because we plan to offer this major with existing personnel, we do not anticipate that there will be any significant costs associated with the implementation of the major. Because we already oversee a corps of faculty, a minor, and an ambitious set of lectures and mini-courses for the Charleston community, Jewish Studies already has administrative staff support that is significantly more extensive than that of most of the academic programs on campus. We already have significant library holdings, including our archival Jewish Heritage Collection (www.cofc.edu/~jhc).

The only significant (though still minor) cost we might incur would be associated with the offering of our senior research seminar, which is likely to be small, and would prevent the faculty member teaching the course from offering a better-enrolled section of another course. But our recent offerings of our Jewish history sequence have enrolled so well that we should be able to offset this loss without hiring additional personnel.

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April 7, 2010

Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Deputy Director
Academic Affairs and Licensing Division
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Dr. Morrison,

For your review please fine enclosed a program planning summary for the Bachelor of Arts in the Jewish Studies major. It will be housed in the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. The major will enable students to understand the diversity and complexity of the Jewish experience. Jewish Studies programs have experienced explosive growth since the late 1960's. Anticipation that the demand for our new major will be small but healthy in the beginning, but expanding as the program is established.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/PGB