Social Science Council
Interdisciplinary Council Bylaws

I. Statement of Goals and Objectives of the Social Science Council

The Interdisciplinary Social Studies Major on the B.S. in Ed. degree, Provisional Elementary Certification, and the Interdisciplinary Social Studies Major on the B.S. in Ed. degree, Provisional Secondary Certification, each require knowledge and synthesis of several areas of study. To this end, the goals of these programs are to develop effective and well-prepared Social Studies Teachers consistent with state and national standards. The Interdisciplinary Social Science Major on the B.S. and B.A. degrees likewise requires knowledge and synthesis of several areas of study to develop competency in the perspectives, skills, and methodological tools of the constituent social science disciplines.

Consequently, after completing a program in Social Studies or Social Science, students will be able to:

A. For Social Studies (history, geography, economics, and political science) or Social Science (history, geography, economics, political science, and sociology), demonstrate understanding of the fundamental facts, concepts, and generalizations of the constituent disciplines;

B. Demonstrate understanding of and appreciation for the interrelationships among the constituent social science disciplines;

C. Demonstrate understanding of fundamental social science perspectives and their application in analysis and interpretation of information;

D. Demonstrate understanding of the varieties of primary and secondary data appropriate to conducting investigations in various social science disciplines;

E. Demonstrate the ability to conduct a social science investigation by gathering, organizing, and interpreting data;

F. Demonstrate the ability to organize findings of a social science investigation into a coherent written and oral report;

G. Demonstrate the ability to use social science skills and content to participate in public discourse and decision-making about issues and events of public concern;

H. Use social science and communication skills to compete effectively for positions outside of education.

Students in the social studies elementary and secondary provisional certification programs will further be able to:

I. Use standard commercially available curriculum materials in their disciplinary areas;

J. Develop social studies units consistent with Michigan content standards and best professional practice guidelines;

K. Conduct themselves professionally in student teaching;

L. Compete effectively for social studies education positions at the elementary and
secondary levels.

In addition, students in the social studies elementary and secondary provisional certification programs will be able to meet certification competencies in the content area as specified by the Michigan Department of Education Standards for Teacher Preparation [see attached document to be inserted when bylaws are posted to the web].

II. Council Membership

The council shall be composed of seven members including one representative from PK-12 education. One faculty member eligible to advise students in the Social Science/Social Studies Programs, shall be selected from each of Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology, and Teacher Education and Professional Development. The PK-12 representative shall be a classroom social studies teacher or social studies coordinator recruited from a public school district.

III. Council Functions

The Social Studies Council is charged with overseeing the activities of the Social Studies and Social Science programs. In these oversight duties it functions similarly to an academic department. In overseeing and nurturing programs the Council will:

A. Serve as the main academic body for the programs;
B. Recommend changes in the program curriculum;
C. Construct and approve assessment plans and reports;
D. Conduct program review;
E. Approve admissions standards and student internships (if any);
F. Represent the program internally and externally as needed;
G. Provide input and advice to the council director on program procedures and practices;
H. Provide input on departmental scheduling of courses for the programs as needed;
I. Recommend appointment of a council director to the Dean.

Note: Evaluation and approval of student teaching applications will be conducted by the department of concentration for the elementary Social Studies majors and by the Political Science department for secondary Social Studies majors.

IV. Program Director

The program director will be elected by the Council and recommended to the Dean for a three (3) year term. The director shall be a full-time tenure/tenure-track faculty member in an associated department. The director shall possess an academic background appropriate to teach an approved course in the programs and to serve as a program advisor.

Duties of the director are to:
A. Serve as chair of the council including convening and chairing meetings of the Council on a regular basis as a voting member;
B. Coordinate activities of the Council as charged;
C. Lead the Council in a periodic review of courses, program, practices, and policies;
D. Process curriculum changes approved by the Council;
E. Serve as a spokesperson for the programs and coordinate promotional activities;
F. Oversee the design and implementation of an assessment plan;
G. Oversee the annual assessment activities and forward annual reports as specified by the University;
H. Oversee program review;
I. Oversee accreditation reports where appropriate;
J. Work with participating departments to insure appropriate advising and scheduling of classes.

V. Curriculum

The Council will, at all times, notify participating departments and the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences on changes before they are submitted through the curricular process.

VI. Advisors for the Social Science and Social Studies Programs

Advisors shall consist of individuals the regularly teach courses in the Social Studies and Social Science curricula.

VII. Assessment

The Council, under the direction of the Director, will conduct annual assessment activities and file annual reports as specified in the University assessment plan. Copies of the Assessment Plan will also be forwarded to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

VIII. Program Review

The Council, under the direction of the Director, will conduct the program review as scheduled by the University.
MEMORANDUM

To:     Denise Webster, Curriculum and Assessment
From:   Timothy D. Hall, Chair, Social Science Council
Date:   December 23, 2004
Subject: Social Science Council Bylaws and Assessment Plans

Enclosed please find the Social Science Council’s draft bylaws and assessment plans for Social Studies, Elementary Provisional Certification, Social Studies, Secondary Provisional Certification, and Social Science on the non-teaching Liberal Arts Degrees. At its meeting of November 29, the Council reviewed these documents and voted to submit them to the Assessment Council for approval.

c. Pamela Gates, Associate Dean, College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences