

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REQUEST TO ESTABLISH NEW ACADEMIC UNIT OR REORGANIZE AN EXISTING UNIT

Academic Unit Name – Department of Moral Sciences

Requested by – College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)

Description of Proposed New Unit – The **Department of Moral Sciences**, in which the Freedom Center would be housed, would create an administrative structure that enables more effective engagement with students, more infrastructure for research collaborations, and clearer access for community organizations and institutions seeking to partner. The Freedom Center's mission is "to promote the understanding and appreciation of the ideals of freedom and responsibility along four dimensions: published research, undergraduate education, graduate education, and community outreach." Note that two of those dimensions are academic-yet centers at the UA do not oversee academic programs. The establishment of the department would better align with institutional structures.

In terms of goals and objectives, the work in the new department would build on the programs and resources already introduced through the Freedom Center. The new department would also be able to offer undergraduate programs of study (the existing PPEL) and new graduate degrees and certificates.

Purpose and Activities of Unit – The new unit will continue to conduct many of the same programs currently offered through the Freedom Center; the goal, again, is to create an administrative structure that enables more effective engagement with students, more infrastructure for research collaborations, and clearer access for community organizations and institutions seeking to partner. The following existing programming would therefore move from the Freedom Center to the new Department:

- (1) UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR:** The currently-existing undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics, Economics & Law (PPEL) will move from its current location in the Department of Philosophy to the new Department of Moral Sciences. The governance structure, attached, will remain the same. Program fees will continue to flow to the program for the enhancement of the student experience. SCH will continue to flow to the instructor's college, and major funds will likewise flow per the current arrangement. Since the DMS is poised to hire new faculty whose courses, if/as appropriate, can be integrated into the BA, the move creates more and different learning opportunities for PPEL students.
- (2) RESEARCH THINK TANK:** The Freedom Center offers a number of programs and workshops every year, largely directed toward undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to faculty from the UA and across the nation.
 - a) The Colloquium Series features weekly talks by Center faculty and graduate students, other University of Arizona faculty, and distinguished outside scholars.
 - b) Research Workshops are held periodically to showcase research by University of Arizona alumni, faculty, and visitors to the Center, and likewise often feature the work of world-class scholars.
 - c) Social Philosophy & Policy (visiting scholars program)
- (3) HIGH SCHOOL / UNIVERSITY DUAL CREDIT COURSE (Phil/PPEL 101: Ethics, Economy, and Entrepreneurship):** This first-year course is already available to high school students as, in effect, a large course with discussion sections led at high schools by high school teachers. The course's administration would move from the Freedom Center to the new Department, which will continue to advance this initiative, developed to engage high school students (and their teachers) with complex theories and research around liberty, values, and ethics through dual enrollment. The first 14 teachers to participate in the program were trained in Summer 2015, and with their help the curriculum was vetted and refined. The same number of teachers participated in Summer 2016. Eight high schools have adopted the curriculum for the 2016-2017 academic year, and the Tucson Unified School District recently approved the course for adoption. The anticipated total enrollment in FY17 will be well over 300

students, an estimated half of whom are expected to enroll simultaneously at the University of Arizona for dual-enrollment college credit. We expect over a thousand students by year 2019. The current agreement with the College and Provost's Office to offer the course as a three-unit course for a tuition of \$500, with the Freedom Center receiving around \$315 (63%) from that, will continue when the course moves to the new Department.

(4) PUBLICATIONS: As noted above, the *Social Philosophy and Policy Journal* and editorship of *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy* are both currently in the Freedom Center; they would become projects of the Department of Moral Sciences.

(5) NEW GRADUATE PROGRAMS: We also anticipate the development and proposal for (separate) institutional review of the following Graduate Certificate and Graduate Degree Program:

- a) 18-unit Master's certificate in Political Economy, mainly for high school teachers instructing PPEL 101. This Master's Certificate will enable educators to meet the Higher Learning Commission's national standards for dual-enrollment teachers. Courses will include *The Ethical Marketplace; Philosophy, Politics and Economics; Decision Theory; Special Topics in Philosophy; and Independent Study*
- b) A 30-unit Master's Degree in Political Economy, to include such courses as *Ethical Entrepreneurship, Collective Action, and Experimental Economics*. We will follow the normal process for approval for new majors as this degree develops.

NOTE: The name for this MA degree will be chosen in due course, but in any case the name will not include the words "Political" or "Economy" or their obvious derivatives without express permission of the SGPP and the Economics Dept.



Resources Available for the Unit

Faculty and Staff -

Physical Facilities and Equipment –\$300,00 one-time expenditure for construction or renovation. No additional requirements specific to the change of the Freedom Center from a center to a department.

Library Resources, materials, Supplies – No additional requirements.

Other Information –

Sources of Funding

Primary revenue: state budget (currently \$2.6M annually goes to FC)

Secondary revenue: fees associated with PPEL and outreach revenues from Phil/PPEL 101: Ethics, Economy, and Entrepreneurship

Tertiary revenue: donor support (especially from Karl & Stevie Eller)

Approvals:

CAAC

May 23, 2017

Provost Council

Arizona Board of Regents