

TO: Westmont College Faculty
FROM: Faculty Council
SUBJECT: Westmont Downtown Program in Social Entrepreneurship
DATE: October 10, 2014

Based on a recommendation from the Academic Senate, the Faculty Council moves that the faculty approve the following program (in accordance with section 1.3.3.2 of the Faculty Handbook), with the requirement that it be reviewed for the next two years by the Academic Senate for its quality, mission and financial viability.

Westmont Downtown
The Center for Social Entrepreneurship

Vision Statement

The Center for Social Entrepreneurship is a semester-long program in downtown Santa Barbara that equips students with skills and experiences they need to become social innovators, entrepreneurs, and change makers who seek the local and global good. Students from various majors will draw on their disciplinary training and liberal arts foundation to tackle social problems. Alongside the academic program, the center will serve as a place for Westmont's engagement with the Santa Barbara Community.

Scope, Structure, and Design

Curriculum

- The program will be anchored by two central components—a **practicum** and a **core seminar**. In its initial, pilot year, the seminar will count for major credit in Economics and Business and in Sociology. Other departments may choose to count it toward their major initially or in future years.
- The required courses will be supplemented by electives in a range of social science and humanities disciplines. In the pilot year, **three electives** will be offered each semester: one in Economics and Business, and two in other social sciences or Religious Studies.

Note: If the general program is approved, the core seminar and one of the electives will be new courses will be submitted to the Senate Review Committee for approval.

- The program will include opportunities for **corporate worship, prayer, and Bible study**. Within those contexts, as well as in their courses, students will reflect on the connections between their faith and the work of the program.

Students

The program will be open to **second-semester sophomores, juniors, and seniors** from all disciplines who are interested in pursuing civic good in business, government, and non-profits. Practicum placements will be tailored to each student, ensuring that students from a range of majors will have an appropriate experience.

Funding and Viability

At this stage, the program envisions a modest group of students (12-15 a term), who will enjoy living in Santa Barbara and completing internships and courses in a downtown context. Students will be responsible for finding their own housing, which

is not inconsistent with the large number of juniors and seniors who currently choose to live off-campus. We will lease space for classroom and office usage, perhaps collaborating with other educational institutions.

For the initial year, a proposed budget has been built conservatively on ten students a semester.

Personnel

Rachel Winslow (Ph.D., history, UCSB), who has taught in the Sociology and History Departments, has been charged with developing the vision and blueprint for the program, and she brings expertise in social change, research methods, American urban history and cultural change. She has worked closely with the Economics and Business Department to develop a program that is interdisciplinary in spirit. In its initial year or two, the director would report to the vice provost, with the expectation that if the program proves viable it would become part of the off-campus programs overseen by the Global Education Office.

Additional Comments

The benefits of an off-campus program in Social Entrepreneurship

Many of today's students are interested in social entrepreneurship. They want to translate their disciplinary interests to work that promotes the common good and human flourishing. In forming this center, Westmont will join top-tier universities and liberal arts colleges across the United States in providing a program directly aimed at social innovation. The curriculum for this program has been modeled, in part, on vibrant programs at Middlebury, Cornell, and other leading institutions.

It allows a modest enrollment increase without violating the provisions of the existing Conditional Use Permit. This could include marketing the program to students at other CCCU schools. It provides an opportunity for students to use their liberal arts skills in professional settings, and helps equip them for a successful post-baccalaureate launch. A program in Santa Barbara can **build on our existing network of relationships** with local alumni, business executives, and non-profit leaders. It also has the potential to raise the visibility of Westmont in the Santa Barbara community.

A locally based program **allows us to draw on existing resources** at a lower cost than what it would take to start a program in a new city. The ability to have our current Westmont faculty, including our network of part-time faculty, teach or guest lecture in the program, will allow us to launch the program without having to recruit and hire new instructors.

Students would have the option to participate in some campus-based activities. This program has been crafted to abide by the requirements of the Conditional Use Permit.

The Center for Social Entrepreneurship Course List

Fall 2015

Practicum (8 units)

Core Seminar (4 units)

HIS/SOC/POL upper-division elective

EB 191, Entrepreneurship & New Ventures (4 units)—or another Econ/Bus class

RS (e.g., Introduction to New Testament)

Spring 2016

Practicum (8 units)

Core Seminar (4 units)

EB 107, Business at the Bottom of the Pyramid (4 units)

HIS/SOC/POL upper-division elective

RS (e.g., Introduction to New Testament)

