


Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate
Seton Hall University

From: Karen E. Boroff, Ph.D. 
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Re: Online Executive M.S. in International Affairs
2018-FS-11

Date: June 8, 2018

The Office of the Provost is in receipt of the Faculty Senate's approval of the Online Executive M.S. in International Affairs. This approval was voted at the May 4, 2018 meeting of the Senate.

The creation of the 30 credit Online Executive M.S. in International Affairs appears to be a natural outgrowth of the existing Executive M.S. in International Affairs. Several of the courses in the Executive M.S. in International Affairs program are currently offered in online or hybrid formats. By developing a body of courses in the online format, the proposed online program should appeal to a broader audience of professionals who would be interested in pursuing the degree but challenged to commute to the South Orange campus. In terms of competitors, only three other APSIA members offer fully online degree programs.

The proposal requires no new resources and will be based on a model which allows students from the various graduate level programs to co-enroll in the courses. As the proposal indicates, existing courses will have increased enrollment. It is also an excellent idea to include retention programming for these online students. Our Seton Hall Library has an e-book collection to support the research needs to these online students. It is also recognized as a United Nations depository library, providing students with a range of UN documents and reports. The program will develop a course evaluation instrument specifically for online courses. An assessment of the effectiveness of the online program can be made through comparison with the on-campus version of the program.

In reviewing a sample of syllabi for these courses, they have learning objectives which indicates various types of analyses and skills that all students are expected to demonstrate for the courses. These artifacts are considered in the grading rubric for the courses. It was interesting to note that there is etiquette guidance provided to those posting to Blackboard discussion, a very useful skill for those involved in the online environment.

In reviewing the Executive M.S. in International Affairs, which is already listed in the current graduate catalogue, I noted that there are no programmatic learning outcomes listed. This is problematic as we

prepare for the next Middle States visit. I would like to see how the course objectives integrate to provide a learning pathway for the student to achieve the program goals.

Once learning outcomes are provided for both formats of the Executive M.S. in International Affairs programs, I will be pleased to reconsider the online version for approval.