

**Senate of College Councils Policy Briefing**  
**S.R. 1108 – In Support of the Creation of a Medical Humanities  
Certificate Program**

Briefing prepared by: Laura Wright, lswright@me.com  
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**BACKGROUND**

- In 2009, 658 students applied to medical school from UT, 58% were accepted
- Students at UT currently earn certificates in areas ranging from Business Foundations to Core Texts and Ideas

**PURPOSE**

- To outline the reasons for the establishment of a Medical Humanities Certificate Program at UT

**SUMMARY**

- Both pre-med students and students interested in the historical, philosophical, and ethical aspects of medicine would benefit from a Medical Humanities Certificate Program
- The program would require students to take 18 hours of credit from a pre-approved list of courses related to the Medical Humanities
- Courses for the program could be drawn almost entirely from large-enrollment courses currently found in the 2011-2012 UT course catalog

**WHEREAS SUMMARY**

Lines 6-10	In 2009, 658 students applied to medical school from UT, 58% were accepted into medical school
Lines 12-19	UT currently offers a range of certificate programs that allow students to further their academic and occupational goals by taking courses that may not be directly related to their major
Lines 21-24	Baylor University, University of Missouri, and University of South Carolina all currently offer similar Medical Humanities minor programs, all of which require 18 hours worth of courses (the same number of hours required by certificate programs at UT)
Lines 26-34	Many courses that could be included in the certificate program can be found in the current 2011-2012 UT course catalog, including PH303M

(Philosophy of Mind and Body) and CC 306M (Introduction to Medical Terms). The proposed certificate program differs from the Bridging Disciplines Program's Ethics of Healthcare track in that it requires more hours in the medical humanities and no credit hours from independent research or internships.

Lines 36-47

In his state of the University Address, President Powers stated that we could grow toward the goal of establishing a medical school "in a way that avoids the fear that it will undermine some of our academic programs, especially those in the humanities and social sciences." To that end, this certificate program would help maintain the balance between healthcare education in the sciences and humanities while increasing the quality of medical school applicants who choose to earn the certificate.

#### **RESOLVED SUMMARY**

Lines 49-55

The Senate of College Councils Supports the Creation of a Medical Humanities Certificate Program. Such a program would require students to take 18 total hours from a pre-approved list of courses. Of these 18 hours, 3 hours each must be in the fields of medical ethics, medical philosophy, and medical history.

#### **SENT TO**

Vincent Shelby Stanfield, Registrar;  
Gretchen Ritter, Vice Provost;  
Harrison Keller, Vice Provost of Higher Education Policy and Research;  
Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President;  
Jeanette Herman, director, Bridging Disciplines Program;  
and all college deans.

#### **NEXT STEPS IF PASSED**

➤ Contact deans of colleges to identify in which college the program could be house

#### **CONTACT INFO**

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