**Report from BLP, Convergent Journalism Minor**

**March 12, 2015**

The budget and Long Range Planning Committee (BLP) has reviewed the proposed Convergent Journalism Minor as well as the resource implications of the program’s launch. We thank proposer Rebecca Lush and Associate Dean Scott Greenwood for their input and assistance as we reviewed the program’s resource implications.

This proposed program will be housed in the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences. This is a 21 unit interdisciplinary program with courses offered in the School of Arts, Communication, Literature and Writing, and FMST.

The program is designed to offer students skills in convergent journalism (print, broadcast, and web-based) and to provide journalism experiences for students through the student-run campus news outlets (*Cougar Chronicle* and the Public Broadcasting Station.)

**Program Demand:**

According to the P-form, there are typically 10-15 students who currently enroll in a class that is dedicated to publishing the *Cougar Chronicle*. In addition, there are students majoring in Mass Media who have requested courses in Journalism. The campus newspaper has had approximately 50 student volunteers in the past academic year who have volunteered to work for the publication. These are students who have indicated interest in gaining more knowledge and training in journalism. The minor will consist of selections from a variety of existing courses in Communication, Film Studies, Literature and Writing, Mass Media, and VSAR. There are also 3 new Convergent Journalism Courses that will be offered as General Education electives, therefore providing more course offerings for the general student population as well as the Convergent Journalism minor students.

**Resource Implications:**

*Faculty:*

The Convergent Journalism minor is composed primarily of existing courses that are offered on a regular basis. One of the new Convergent Journalism courses will replace the current course that is intended to support the *Cougar Chronicle.* The three new courses have been written and submitted to the University Curriculum Committee.

*Space and Equipment:*

There are 2 video production studios in Kellogg library that are equipped for multi-camera studio production and sound-editing. These studios would provide access to video and sound equipment and industry-used multi-media software. At the present time, these studios are underutilized.

*IITS:*

The Daniels lab in Kellogg is currently supported by IITS staff with funding from CHABSS. This support will continue at no additional cost as long as the hours are not beyond what is already in place.

*Faculty and Staff:*

Existing School of Arts staff will support the Convergent Journalism faculty and students. The budget includes $4,935.00 for staff support. Expenses include $45,000.00 for lecturers and/or replacement costs for faculty and a $1000.00 stipend for the program coordinator.

*Library:*

Add information from the library report

It should be noted that that all new programs require support from existing library and IITS faculty and staff. As the campus continues to grow and new programs are added, whether they are funded through self or state support, new positions and extended hours must be considered to maintain the current level of support.

**State-Supported Budget Assessment:**



