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Date: September 25, 2009

To: University of Hartford Faculty

From: Paul Siegel, Chair

Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee – University Scholars Program (USP)

Re: **University Scholars Program (USP) Enrollment** (Course Description Attached)

The Faculty Senate's Student Affairs Committee is seeking students to enroll in USP 400 for Spring 2010 to participate in the University Scholars Program (USP).

Eligibility and Distinction: If you know of talented students whose interests include elements of interdisciplinary study, you may wish to encourage them to apply to the University Scholars Program. Advantages include a chance to:

- Showcase their work at the Undergraduate Research & Creativity Colloquium, a prestigious annual event to a university-wide audience, and
- Work simultaneously with faculty from highly diverse backgrounds, for example, from two or more Schools/Colleges within the University.

USP projects may be interdisciplinary not only in perspective but also in the output medium (e.g., text and visual/musical art, technical prototypes and electronic presentations).

Deadline: The deadline for proposal submission is Friday, December 4 (12noon) 2009. An optional one-page summary may be submitted as a means of obtaining early and preliminary feedback from the Student Affairs Committee. **The deadline for the one-page summary is Friday, November 13th (12noon) 2009.**

Requirements: The University Scholars Program (USP) is designed for University of Hartford students who

1. have completed at least 30 undergraduate hours,
2. have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA, and

- wish to engage in a scholarly or creative research project that is significantly beyond the scope of their regular course work.

Course Enrollment: A student may enroll in USP 400 as a six-credit, stand-alone class, or may pursue USP credit as an add-on to an existing course. For example, a student may add three (3) USP credits to a three or more credit course, or to a three-credit independent study so as to pursue a larger project endorsed by the Student Affairs Committee. With the encouragement and support of the instructor, a student may also choose to expand an exemplary project completed in a prior semester. In addition, students in the Honors Program can choose to add three (3) or six (6) USP credits to their Honors thesis in order to complete a more substantial project worthy of both Honors and University Scholars recognition.

Purpose: One purpose of the USP is to encourage interdisciplinary work by students whose interests do not fall neatly within traditional disciplinary boundaries. One can imagine circumstances in which an exceptional student with unusual interests and an independent spirit fares poorly in the traditional curriculum (GenEd courses, courses in a major that only partially addresses his/her interests), but shows great promise pursuing a unique and independent project. The intent of the 3.0 GPA cut-off is not to soften the USP prerequisites, but to ensure that we are serving one of the populations for which the program is designed.

Please refer students to your respective college representative:

FACULTY SENATE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE			
A&S	Rosiene, Carolyn Siegel, Paul (chair)	rosiene@hartford.edu siegel@hartford.edu	860.768.4699 860.768-5418
BARNEY	Machuga, Susan	machuga@hartford.edu	860.768.4184
CETA	Fang, Clara	fang@hartford.edu	860.768.4845
ENHP	Gannotti, Mary (non-Senator) Lewis, Katherine	gannotti@hartford.edu kalewis@hartford.edu	860.768.5373 860.768.5464
HARTT	Zimmerman, Christopher	czimmerma@hartford.edu	860.768.4462
HAS	Carey, Ellen	ecarey@hartford.edu	860.768.4304
HILLYER	(To be Appointed—contact Siegel)		860.768.5418
SGA	(To be appointed—contact Siegel)		860.768.5418

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR PROGRAM

USP 400 Spring 2010

The University Scholar Program is a way for undergraduate students to distinguish themselves, to showcase their best work to the university community as a whole, while having the exceptional experience of working simultaneously with faculty with highly diverse teaching and research interests. The program should be of special value to students who have in mind a research project that crosses boundaries - such as a work that incorporates text but also visual and/or audio artistic output or study that crosses different disciplines resulting in technical prototypes and/or multimedia electronic presentations. USP student work is showcased each year at the Undergraduate Research & Creativity Colloquium.

The University Scholar Program (USP) is designed for University of Hartford students who

- have completed at least 30 undergraduate hours,
- have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA, and
- wish to engage in a scholarly or creative research project that contains elements of interdisciplinary work outside their regular course of study.

A student may register for USP 400 under the following scenarios:

1. You may enroll in USP 400 as a 6 credit, stand-alone class.
2. You may pursue USP credit as an add-on to an existing course by
 - a. adding 3 USP credits to a 3 or more credit course or
 - b. adding 3 USP credits to a 3 or 4 credit independent study so as to pursue a larger project endorsed by the Student Affairs Committee.
3. With the support of your instructor, you may also expand by 3 credits an exemplary 3 or more credit project completed in a prior semester.
4. Students in the University Honors Program may enroll in the USP according to criteria in items a – d below.

With the approval of the appropriate college honors authority, credits earned in the USP program will count toward the university honors degree requirement as outlined below.

- a. In every collegiate Honors program of the University Honors Program, a University Scholar project of 3 – 6 credits can be substituted for the Honors Thesis project with the permission of the appropriate collegiate authority.
- b. In colleges in which the Honors Thesis requirement is 3 (or 6) credits, a student can opt to expand the project by adding an additional 3 (or 6) credits of a University Scholar project with the permission of the Student Affairs Committee.

- c. In every collegiate Honors program, with the permission of the appropriate college authority, a University Scholar project of 3 – 6 credits can be substituted for upper-level independent study and research projects.
- d. All completed projects will be evaluated by the Student Affairs Committee in consultation with the student's advisor. A letter grade will be given, and a Pass (P) or No Pass (NP) grade will not be issued.

Students wishing to participate in the University Scholar Program must submit a proposal:

In the semester prior to implementation of the project, the student must decide upon a project and find a professor with expertise in the content area of the proposed project who is willing to serve as their project advisor. The student must also identify another professor or professional with expertise in the content area as an additional reader.

To encourage students to participate, an optional one-page summary may be submitted as a means of obtaining early and preliminary feedback from the Student Affairs Committee.

The required proposal outline is shown below:

WRITTEN PROPOSAL (5 PAGES MAXIMUM):

1. Title of proposed project
2. Description of the new or continuing project including
 - a. rationale for the academic study and/or creative work,
 - b. research question(s) that will guide the study or ideas that will guide the creative work,
 - c. description of methodology for completing the project,
 - d. description of how the project extends beyond the scope of normal course requirements
3. One-semester time line for completion
4. Estimate & justification of a budget not to exceed \$250.00 for which you will be reimbursed
5. One-page bibliography of sources
6. Signature of project advisor and secondary reader

Deadline & details for submission:

- **Optional one-page summary** by Friday, November 13th, 2009 (12noon).
- **Proposal** by Friday, December 4, 2009 (12noon).

Send or hand deliver to:

Professor Paul Siegel [PSiegel@hartford.edu]; phone 860.768.5418

Harry J Gray Center, Room E 216

or

Maria Marques

Office of the Faculty Senate, CC314

The committee will communicate its selections before the end of the fall term.

Requirements for USP 400 course in the Spring: The Student Affairs Committee will meet with students and advisor(s) at least twice before the student presents his/her research at the Undergraduate Research & Creativity Colloquium. The colloquium is normally held in the second or third week of April. During finals week, the student will submit a final report documenting the research conducted which will be stored in the archives of the Mortensen Library.

