

March 23, 2021

To: Robert S. Goldstein, Vice Provost  
Office of Academic Planning and Accountability

From: David S. Owen, Interim Dean

Re: Undergraduate Certificate in Ethics

I am writing to express my support for, and endorsement of, the proposal submitted by the Department of Philosophy to establish an undergraduate certificate in ethics. This proposal was endorsed by both the A&S Curriculum Committee and the A&S Faculty Assembly. This program will provide all undergraduates an opportunity to develop skills in ethical leadership and ethical reasoning, both invaluable in any profession and career. In other words, this will create an opportunity open to any UofL undergraduate student who wants to develop a minimum of expertise and skill thinking through ethical problems. The program builds upon the established expertise in the Philosophy Department in ethics, and thus is revenue positive—it has only minimal expenses for library support and is expected to generate new revenue through increased enrollments in already offered ethics courses. Despite scientific advances and technology solutions advanced for social problems, ethical reasoning will always be a necessary and valuable skill for citizens of a democracy to possess. This certificate will advance the mission of the department, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the University by developing students' skills at ethical reasoning and thereby enhancing their capacity to serve as engaged citizens, leaders, and scholars.

Sincerely,



David S. Owen  
Interim Dean