TO: Committee on Educational Programs, College of Arts and Science  
FROM: Beth Conklin, Chair, Department of Anthropology, Steve Wernke, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology;  
DATE: February 15, 2013  
RE: Proposal to establish a minor in Anthropology  

Proposal to Create Anthropology Minor  
The Department of Anthropology proposes a Minor in Anthropology. Per Procedures for Approval of New and Revised A&S Undergraduate Programs, the proposal was initially submitted and reviewed by Dean Campbell. Based on Dean Campbell’s recommendations, the proposal was revised and submitted to Dean Dever, who approved this proposal for submission to the Committee on Educational Programs. Below we present the rationale, goals, requirements, budgetary implications, faculty voting tally, text for the Catalog, and administrative aspects of the minor.

Rationale  
The rationale for this minor relates to the breadth of anthropology as a discipline. Because of this breadth, an anthropology minor will pair well with a broad range of majors in the humanities and sciences, while providing uniquely anthropological theoretical, methodological, and substantive knowledge. To our knowledge, anthropology is the only department in the college that does not have a minor, even though it is particularly well-suited as a potential minor because of the breadth of the discipline.

Goals  
The goals of the minor are threefold:  
1) to provide introductory knowledge of anthropological theory and methods in two subdisciplines through the requirement of two introductory-level courses of the student’s choice: ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology, ANTH 103: Introduction to Biological Anthropology, ANTH 104: Introduction to Archaeology, or ANTH 105: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology;  
2) to establish foundational understanding of anthropological theory through the requirement of one 200-level theory course (from our Group I courses: Comparative Anthropology and Anthropological Theory; and  
3) to provide flexibility in the selection of upper division coursework according to students’ interests through the requirement of nine credit hours (three courses) of other 200-level anthropology courses from any of the three Groups (in any combination). These upper division course can thus provide either a measure of concentration within one of the subfields of anthropology, or a sampling of the breadth of anthropology in holistic fashion.

Budgetary Implications  
The minor is not expected to create any new teaching or service duties with budgetary impact beyond current outlays, given that no new courses are required for the minor, and it is designed to be flexible enough to allow students to fulfill their upper division requirements from a range of courses. This is true for both the theory requirement and the nine credit hours of 200-level electives. For example, rather
than requiring specific theory courses, the minor allows students to take any of our Group I courses to fulfill the theory requirement. This is designed to ensure basic theory training while also helping to prevent overloads in our two main undergraduate major theory courses (ANTH 206 and 284). Likewise, we believe allowing flexibility in choosing the nine credit hours of electives both facilitates customization of the minor to student interests, and will help to disperse additional enrollments by minors among existing course offerings.

**Faculty voting tally**
At the anthropology faculty meeting of December 14, 2012, the seven faculty members in attendance voted unanimously in favor of the proposed minor with the requirements described above. (Five faculty who were not present did not vote.) Prof. Wernke (current Director of Undergraduate Studies) was not in attendance at that meeting, but his approval is implicit as DUS and drafter of the minor.

**Proposed text for the Undergraduate Catalog**

Minor in Anthropology
The minor in anthropology requires 18 credit hours of course work that includes any two of the introductory courses: ANTH 101, 103, 104, 105; one course listed in Group I in the major; and three additional courses from any combination of the courses listed in Group I, II, and III in the major.

The Minor will be inserted following the section on Honors in Anthropology.

**Reporting and Leadership Structure**
The minor will be administered by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Anthropology.

**Student Advising**
Anthropology minors will be assigned advisors from among the faculty of the Department of Anthropology by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**Summary**
We believe this minor in anthropology will contribute to the dynamism and growth of a broad, interdisciplinary education in the College of Arts and Science by extending anthropology’s core disciplinary message for the holistic understanding of humanity in all of its cultural, biological, linguistic, and historical diversity to a population of students with complementary major interests in a variety of fields.

If there are any questions or concerns about this proposal, do not hesitate to contact Steve Wernke, Director of Undergraduate Studies (Anthropology), at s.wernke@vanderbilt.edu