Memo Jan. 21/10

From: Fire Services Administration – (LaRon Tolley – 8-8697)

To: Faculty Senate

RE: Program request P00324

 **Proposal:** Requesting **elimination of the** **Minor** requirement for Fire Services Administration degree students.

**Reasoning**: The Fire Services Administration degree is a unique degree that is delivered primarily to adult learners that are currently employed within the fire and emergency service professions. The typical part-time student is over 30 years old and is “mid-career” and needing to complete their degree for advancement and promotional purposes. This is a specialized degree similar to the 16 other degrees offered at WOU that currently do not require a minor.

**Arguments supporting the request:**
(1) Over 97% of all FSA students are distance students that under current policy must complete a WOU approved minor but take all the coursework at other institutions due to unavailability of complete minors for distance delivery from WOU.

(2) Statistical results from 2007 graduate survey indicated that “completion of minor” was a significant drawback to an otherwise valuable college experience for Fire Service Students

(3) WOU is the only one of the seven National Fire Academy regionally affiliated Fire Service Administration schools that currently requires a minor

(4) EOU, WOU’s “cooperative partner” in the FSA program in Oregon, does not require a minor and in fact, uses this as a marketing / recruitment tool luring WOU admitted students into their program . . . ( 20+ students in the past two years.)

**Summary:**

Elimination of the minor requirement will not only enhance the major by allowing students to take more FSA courses beyond the 48 credit hours, it will also retain students and their tuition revenue at WOU. It will also provide a clearer path for students from entry to graduation.

On an administrative level, elimination of the minor will significantly reduce advising time and resources within LAS, as well as significantly reducing the time consuming and paper wasting minor / transfer approval processes currently employed.