APSC provides the following criteria to faculty when considering curricular innovations:

***Criteria for Certificates***

* Suggests an “emerging area of considerable academic interest”
* Reflects strong, current faculty interest and resources and plays to existing strength of institution
* Offers students opportunity to attain capacity beyond traditional area of study
* Offers breadth of study on a topic or issue and approach is typically interdisciplinary in nature
* Provides structure for students to tie courses together thematically rather than by method or field
* Typically requires a progression through course options from an introductory course to a required senior experience
* Advising is critical for students to complete
* Does not have a home department, but has a chair & coordinating committee
* Students declare intention to complete
* Typically more courses than a minor; fewer than a major
* Encourages students to take clusters of related courses
* Offers students validation/identification of a thematic cluster of academic work
* Will be noted on transcript when degree is posted
* A certificate will be provided to student at graduation along with the diploma

***Criteria for Minor:***

* Offers students recognition for completing a cluster of approximately 6 courses within a major
* Students formally declare with the Registrar’s Office only if there is no major in this discipline at Dickinson

***Rationale:*** Recently when considering curricular proposals, it was clear that the committee had no way of determining whether those programs that were not proposed as a major would best be described as a certificate or a minor. Upon review we confirm that there is no common definition for these categories within higher education community nor do employers privilege one type of category over another. Therefore, the committee has established these criteria to provide guidance for faculty and to communicate to the public our approach to this aspect of our curriculum.

Prepared by B. Bretz 12/1/09 for APSC consideration; revised 12/7/09.