Resolution #23, 1983-84

TO: President John E. Van de Watering
FROM: The Faculty Senate
DATE: 5/14/84

RE: X I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
     II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
     III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)

SUBJECT: Proposal of a Minor Field of Studies: Modern War and Society

(see attached)

Signed

Morris H. Beers, President, Faculty Senate

Date Sent: 5/16/84

TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: President John E. Van de Watering

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution
   a. Accepted. Effective Date
   b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on
      5/20/84.
   c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II. III. a. Received and acknowledged
         b. Comment:

DISTRIBUTION: Vice Presidents
              Marcus, McCray, Klein, Kelly

Others: "Others"

Distribution Date: 5/17/84

Signed: President of the College

Date Received by the Senate: ___________
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
College at Brockport

Faculty Senate Meeting: 5/11/84

Amendment to Attached
Proposal of a Minor Field of Studies: Modern War and Society

The coordinator of the Program should issue an evaluation of the program to the Senate by the end of the Spring 1986 semester.
Proposal of a Minor Field of Studies: Modern War and Society

Curriculum Committee
Department of History
March 1984
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I. INTRODUCTION

Today throughout the United States a number of colleges and universities have established centers for the study of war and military affairs. Most of these institutes, as at the University of Chicago, Duke University and Stanford University, focus on graduate studies. Not only in specialized graduate programs, but also in undergraduate courses has the interest in war become pervasive. According to a 1970 survey by the Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Military History, some 110 colleges and universities offered some 153 courses dealing with war and society.

This concern is not surprising, given the post-1945 position of the United States as a great power with global commitments. Washington's current focus on military affairs has heightened public interest and anxiety in thermonuclear war and its possible control. Indeed, military spending, with its costly high technology weaponry, in an unsettled economic situation, is a pressing concern to much of the American public.

Given the American system of democracy, it is incumbent upon citizens to be informed about war and society in order to participate intelligently in the political process. It is doubly imperative for college and university students, presumably the best informed segment of the public, to have an opportunity to study in a structured, comprehensive and professional context.

II. RATIONALE

The Curriculum Committee of the Department of History wishes to propose a minor field of study, Modern War and Society, for several specific reasons:

1. Brockport already has a substantial pool of courses from which students could fashion a minor. Nine history offerings and one anthropology course span the modern period in a myriad of perspectives, covering American, European and Asian Affairs. Indeed, very few institutions of higher learning in America, other than the military academies and special graduate institutes, present such a wide variety of offerings on war. Yet despite this wealth of scholarly expertise, the war-related courses remain relatively unorganized and without a systematic structure of study. Our proposal aims to integrate these courses (along with four other political science offerings regarding foreign relations).

2. This proposal intends also to achieve a more interdisciplinary character by adding two new courses. Faculty members in the political science and sociology departments have recently prepared courses concerning war: PLS 444 National Security and SOC 493 The Literature of War. These two courses will bring the total to sixteen, add new dimensions, and give a uniqueness to the program.

3. The ROTC program at Brockport is burgeoning as increasing numbers of students chose the vocational option of a reserve officer. A minor in Modern War and Society will offer ROTC students a second minor which bears directly on their main interests. The Department of Military Science has already recognized the role of non-military academic faculty in the education of the potential
As a history course (HST 355) has become an integral and mandated part of the Military Science Program, and a Political Science course (PLS 444) is now recommended. Given the American heritage of suspicion of professional armies, it is important that non-military academic faculty cooperate in teaching ROTC candidates. The Military Science Department has been very receptive to inter-departmental endeavors.

4. A concentration in Modern War and Society would entail no application of costly new resources. It would oblige no proliferation of new courses -- all courses are currently registered -- nor force additional allocations of limited library and audio-visual funds to a relatively new subject field. Moreover, concerned faculty could specialize in teaching courses of their own research interests without compromising scholarship or academic integrity, while responding to a genuine and high interest among students on campus.

5. As Brockport faces the difficult challenges of the 1980s, it is imperative that new and unique programs be created to attract and retain students. The minor in Modern War and Society offers such a possibility. Given the high quality of the faculty members involved, both as scholars and teachers, this minor might well achieve a distinction as the only one of its kind in State University of New York.

III. THE PROGRAM

Students minorin Modern War and Society must complete 18 hours of course work. They shall be required to take:

A. HST 355, Modern War, 1740-1939

B. Two of the following four courses:
   - ANT 260, The Anthropology of War
   - PLS 311, World Politics
   - PLS 444, National Security
   - SOC 493, The Literature of War

C. Three electives from the following:
   - HST 323, Civil War and Reconstruction
   - HST 327, The American Military Experience Since 1900
   - HST 356, War Since 1945
   - HST 362, World War II
   - HST 410, War of the American Revolution
   - HST 441, World War I
   - HST 448, The French Revolution and Napoleon
   - HST 463, Communism and Revolution in China
   - PLS 334, Comparative Foreign Policy
   - PLS 335, Soviet Foreign Policy
   - PLS 301, Inter-Nation Simulation
IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The minor in War and Society shall be coordinated by a member of the Department of History and shall fall under the aegis of the Dean, School of Letters and Sciences. Dr. John F. Kucziowski has volunteered to serve as its first coordinator.

The duties of the coordinator shall include, though not be limited to, the following items:

1. To publicize the minor as widely as possible, especially among students in the Letters and Sciences and in the ROTC program;

2. To serve as advisor to students minoring in War and Society, and to see them at least once a semester;

3. To ensure that appropriate courses are offered with sufficient frequency so that a student can complete the minor within two academic years;

4. To act as liaison among the academic departments involved in the minor.

V. APPENDICES

A. Faculty

B. Courses and outlines

C. Letters from chairs regarding offering of courses.
October 10, 1984

Dr. Robert Marcus
Vice President for Academic Affairs
SUNY College at Brockport
Campus

Dear Bob:

Last Spring I wrote to President Van de Wetering concerning some reservations I had about the proposed "War and Society" minor. At the time I was not sure whether the resources of this Department, already under pressure from a number of previous commitments, could adequately staff the proposed courses.

After meeting with those faculty concerned, I am persuaded that in fact we do have the resources for the next two years at least, and so I am withdrawing my reservations. I have no further objection to the President's signing the Senate resolution.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn H. Parsons, Chairman
History Department

bp
xc: Dr. John Rutkowski
    Dr. Kenneth O'Brien