Proposal:

The addition of a BA/BS in University Studies and a Minor in Constitutional Studies is proposed. Also, the 2012 School of Education program review is presented.

Background:

The proposed BA/BS degree in University Studies is designed to meet the academic and professional objectives of learners whose needs are not addressed through more specialized degree programs. The degree assists learners in developing essential skills valued by employers and graduate schools (e.g., applied learning, critical thinking, written/oral communication, team work, ethical reasoning, and global understanding) rather than focusing on a specific discipline. Learners will pursue a structured, yet customized set of courses under the guidance of an advisor and faculty mentor to ensure appropriate curricular sequencing and cohesion. They will focus on breadth rather than depth, enrolling in courses in a general disciplinary area and completing a capstone experience that further prepares them for their chosen professions or graduate school admission. Students will propose and complete the capstone under the direction of a faculty member. It will involve reflection and a synthesis of learning that demonstrates achievement of the learning outcomes for the degree.

As a minor in the Political Science program, the Constitutional Studies minor focuses primarily on issues relating to U.S. Government and Public Law. Graduates of the Constitutional Studies minor may pursue graduate studies, law school, and a variety of public sector and private sector jobs. The Constitution is an integral part of the study of American government. Because the Constitution is the political blueprint and fundamental law of the nation, it is important that constitutional studies be taught, researched, and understood. The Constitutional Studies minor will seek to accomplish this important task by providing a broad theoretical and practical understanding of the origins, principles, and development of the Constitution.

The School of Education (SOE) curriculum, leading to a baccalaureate degree and initial professional teaching license in elementary education and an initial professional teaching license in secondary education, meets university graduation requirements and the State of Utah licensure requirements. The baccalaureate degree in Elementary Education requires 121 credit hours for graduation and degrees in content area Secondary Education fields range from 120 to 125 credit hours. Teacher candidates seeking a secondary license earn a baccalaureate degree in an education major from the content area department. The School of Education is in compliance with credit hour policies of the university and the Utah State Board of Regents when setting the credit hour requirements for all baccalaureate programs.

Recommendation:

The President and the Vice President for Academic Affairs recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed action as summarized above and detailed in the attached documents.