TO: GPSEPC
FROM: Jennifer M. Pigza, Ph.D.
Academic Chair, M.A. in Leadership, Social Justice Concentration
DATE: May 16, 2014
RE: Update on 4+1 Progression of the MA in Leadership for Social Justice

The graduate program in Leadership has been highly successful addition to graduate and professional studies for 11 years, and it launched a concentration in Leadership for Social Justice (LSJ) in 2011. The first cohort matriculated in June 2012, and the second in 2013. As we enroll the third cohort this summer, we have established a strong record of reaching a new market for graduate leadership. The initiation of the 4+1 program provides a new pathway to the graduate program.

As described by a document from Vice-Provost Sindt, “A 4+1 program blends the bachelor’s degree curriculum with the master’s degree curriculum so that a student can receive a master’s degree in 5 years. 4+1 Programs are called for in the Academic Blueprint (Goal C.1).” This progression will be true in the 4+1 Leadership for Social Justice (LSJ). As the sample progression shows, a student who potentially enters the program during his senior year AY15, would finish his graduate degree in May 2015.

The design for a 4+1 LSJ program has been in formal planning stages since the summer of 2011 when a group of faculty and staff participated in an Association of American Colleges and Universities High Impact Practices Institute. The 4+1 plan was temporarily set aside while the main cohort for the concentration was developed and solidified. Planning for 4+1 LSJ took a greater priority in this current academic year. In the past six months, the chair of LSJ participated with faculty from Liberal and Civic Studies (L&CS) in the development of their new curriculum. The revised curriculum was approved on 5/15/14 by the Senate. Among the results: L&CS is now Justice, Community and Leadership (JCL), and the revised program includes a designated 4+1 pathway from JCL to LSJ.

Much like students in Teachers for Tomorrow (which will remain in the newly-revised JCL major), 4+1 LSJ students will receive advising from both and undergraduate and a graduate faculty member (likely the chair of LSJ) to ensure students’ successful completion of the BA and transition into the graduate courses.

The 4+1 Leadership for Social Justice program is designed to meet the common characteristics of other College4+1 programs such as Teachers for Tomorrow and MS in Accounting:

- LSJ students will take three cross-listed courses during their senior year that are the initial progression of the graduate degree. These courses are: Building a Learning Community, Values &
Ethics, and Leadership Theory. Two attachments show the curriculum for the newly approved JCL major, and the 4+1 LSJ program.

- Students will be informed of the 4+1 pathway and recruited for it in the freshman and sophomore years, however students must apply for admission to the graduate program in their junior year. They will use the existing application process for the MA in Leadership.
- The minimum GPA of 3.25 will be applied to 4+1 LSJ.

Ultimately, the faculty of Justice, Community and Leadership and of Leadership Studies believe that the implementation of the 4+1 LSJ pathway will strengthen both the BA and the MA. It provides a parallel opportunity for non-education JCL majors, and offers a graduate degree to students in an accelerated manner. Leadership Studies is excited to expand our offerings in this way.

Thank you for your review of these materials. I look forward to hearing the insights of the GSPEPC as you have been part of the implementation of 4+1 programs in the past. I can be reached for comments and questions at jpigza@stmarys-ca.edu or 925-631-4755.