December 10, 2019

Dr. Julio Facelli, President, Academic Senate

383 S. University Street, Room 3254

Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Dr. Facelli:

We write this letter as the Department Chair, Advisor, and Instructor for the proposed Veterans Studies Certificate. As the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and the Director of the Veterans Support Center (VSC), we will co-administer the certificate. Undergraduate Studies, specifically the Office of Student Success and Empowerment, will serve as the academic home for the certificate, while the VSC will provide administration and academic advising support.

This collaborative relationship offers University of Utah students a unique academic program intended to develop their capacity to serve a burgeoning population in the United States – service members and veterans. We have developed a program with an interdisciplinary nature for which all courses except the capstone course already exist. Students enrolled in the program will weave together a set of courses that will meet their specific career and educational goals related to the capacity to serve service members and veterans. Additionally, the capstone course, which will be taught by an instructor from the VSC, meets a University priority of providing students with deeply engaged learning.

Another important facet of the certificate is that no additional institutional funds are required for its full implementation. We have worked with the faculty from the departments represented in the list of elective courses, and all of them are in full support of the certificate and welcome the opportunity to have their courses included as part of the program of study.

In our proposal, we note the growing need for professionals who have the capacity to meet the needs of service members and veterans in a number of career fields. As one of only four institutions in the US that will offer such a program, the implementation of this certificate will set the University at the cutting edge in the provision of these essential services. The program represents an innovative approach to serve our undergraduates by allowing them the chance to engage in a unique field of study.

We hope that we have put forward a compelling proposal for the Veterans Studies Certificate and look forward to the opportunity to answer any questions the full senate might have.

Sincerely,



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| Amy Aldous Bergerson, PhD  Director, Office of Student Success and Empowerment  Associate Dean, Office of Undergraduate Studies  Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy | Paul H. Morgan, PhD  Director, Veterans Support Center  University of Utah |