

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

MINUTES, Meeting 371

14 May 2007

1:00 p.m., 177B Administration Building

PRESENT: D. Arant (UNIV), L. Bennett (CAS), P. Betts (SUAP, L. Bennett, Proxy), L. Brooks (MIS), R. Cox (ESCI), C. Danehower (FCBE), M. Logan (CCFA), T. McInish (FIR); A. Peevyhouse (GSA), E. Rakow (COE, M. Hamrick, Proxy), H. Perkins (ICL, M. Hamrick, proxy), D. Sherrell (MKTG), S. Slack (ENGR), L. Weiss (HSS), C. Williams (ENTH); K. Weddle-West (VPGS), J. Brownlee (Graduate School)

ABSENT: S. Chrietzberg (T&D), R. Gudmestad (HIST), R. Koch (NURS), E. Perry (Faculty Senate), N. Wallace (ART), D. Wark (AUSP), C. Serex (Curriculum Planning), C. Schiro-Geist (VPAA),

GUESTS: E. Broadbent (SWRK), D. Cox (Executive Assistant to President Raines), D. Hochstein (ENTH)

Dr. Weddle-West called the meeting to order at 1:05 when a quorum was attained.

371.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 370, 4/6/07. L. Bennett moved (2/S. Slack) that the minutes be approved with the correction that the interdisciplinary doctoral degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy (item 370.4.1) was introduced by both Dr. Bennett and Dr. Dupont. The motion carried and the minutes were approved as amended.

371.2 Announcements

371.3 Old Business

371.3.1 Graduate Certificate in Applied Lean Leadership. At the request of the College of Business, this proposal had been tabled at the April meeting. Dr. Hochstein and C. Williams summarized the proposal, noting that the audience will be engineering graduates and so emphasizes lean manufacturing and draws on existing knowledge. No new resources are required, other than for publicity. C. Danehower would like to add 4 existing courses in the Fogelman College of Business and Economics as electives. Dr. Hochstein has no objection. M. Logan moved (2/C. Williams) that the proposal be approved with the following two stipulations: 1) Engineering will work closely with Business in choosing electives, and 2) there will be no change in the name of the certificate. The motion was carried by voice vote. Dr. Weddle-West thanked Dr. Hochstein and excused her from the remainder of the meeting.

371.3.2 Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Disabilities Studies. D. Arant, assisted by E. Broadbent, presented this proposal. Dr. Arant noted that there is a wide market for such a program. University College has discussed this proposal with the College of Education and the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, who both support it. L. Bennett made several suggestions:

- Add a list of faculty who will participate, noting that Christina Zawisa in CEPR teaches a course similar to the new course requested (UNIV 7400, Family Disability Law and Practice), though not from a law perspective.
- Clarify who will admit new students; list the committee members. (This should be done for the Lean Leadership certificate as well.)
- Clarify that students will not apply as non-degree, but to the specific certificate program; they will have to submit candidacy and intent cards to graduate.
- Copy and paste retention and graduation requirements from the Graduate Bulletin into Sections 2 and 3 on page 3.

N. Hurley and K. Weddle-West also made some editorial suggestions. L. Bennett moved (2/L. Weiss) that the proposal be approved with the stated additions and corrections. The motion was carried by voice vote. Dr. Weddle-West thanked Dr. Broadbent and excused him from the remainder of the meeting.

371.4 New Business

371.4.1 School of Public Health with expanded MPH and new PhD in Public Health. D. Cox introduced these three linked proposals. This school will create a work force that focuses on prevention, rather than finding cures. There are only about 36 accredited schools of public health across the nation. Eligibility for federal funding depends on being a faculty member of such a school. This began as a collaboration with UT-Memphis, but they have withdrawn from the project because of changes in emphasis in their program, although the potential remains for their joining. St. Jude, which has the same biostatistics expertise as UT, has signed on. The challenge now is to find adequate funding without decimating existing programs. They are working on creating “backfill” and start-up resources from state and local government that will support 20 new faculty and a dean; the backfill will be used to reimburse departments whose faculty move into the new school. \$1.5 million has been pledged from private sources; they are looking for a 2-1 matching amount in new state funds (not from TBR or THEC). Gov. Bredesen’s desire to hold down TENNCare costs is a key aspect, although the Legislature is the wild card.

The timing is crucial, as the project cannot go through without state funding. In order to get into the legislature’s budget, the program proposal must go to TBR by the

end of May, so that they can act on it at their July meeting. The school will be phased in over 5-6 years. External funding will be the core of the program.

The current free-standing MPH program, which has begun accepting students for Fall 2007, will be upgraded to 5 concentrations (as the accrediting body requires). They expect 5 FTEs in at least 3 of the concentrations; at the bare minimum, 3 in 2 areas. The proposed doctoral program will have 3 concentrations (the minimum). The ideal student/faculty ratio is 6/1. The HADM program will move en masse to the new school.

A number of points were made during discussion:

- The physical location will be either in Robison Hall (which will be renovated) or at the Urban Child Institute (600 Jefferson).
- *The budget needs to be clarified; it has no space for new state funds. Money for GAs is built into the backfill funds; the basic assumption is 60% (state) /40% (external) at first, with the end goal of supporting GAs largely through external funds.
- There will be part-time PhD students (p. 16 is wrong).
- There will be 6-7 new full-time MPH students in Fall 2007, for a total of 10-15 including part-time, achieved with very little publicity. Momentum will build.
- The accreditation clock begins after the first doctoral student graduates. Earlier master's students are then assumed to have graduated from an accredited school.
- Are separate stat courses in the program necessary?
- MDs find an additional MPH or PhD helpful in their careers.
- *Residency is not addressed.
- TBR has agreed to an expedited review process for their July meeting; THEC will consider it in the Fall. Contingent upon funding, the school should be in place in January 2008.
- The college council in Arts and Sciences has endorsed the project and the College of Education and the Department of Communication have been consulted.
- *Can we be sure that the program won't go forward without state funds?

There was a good bit of discussion, much of it centering on how the program appears to have been pushed ahead of some already approved by the Council. Dr. Cox explained that the desire for such a school has been simmering in the community for some time, that there have been at least 4 aborted proposals, and that the history of fiscal impact elsewhere helped push this one forward.

Dr. Weddle-West asked Council members to share these proposals with their faculty and solicit comments to be sent to her by 22 May. She will forward the comments to Dr. Cox, who will revise accordingly. The asterisked bullet points need

to be addressed. Depending on the kind of comments, there will be either an email vote or a called meeting before the end of May. She then thanked Dr. Cox, who left the meeting after distributing a table showing backfill and start up requirements.

371.4.2 WES. K. Weddle-West said that international students as well as faculty members have voiced concerns about using WES to verify international degrees. Document-by-document verification does not provide what we need. There are questions about whether we even need WES at all, but we don't have the necessary staff here. We do need to rethink our sole reliance on WES, which has had an impact on enrollment. There are several options to consider. Perhaps, if we have a good track record with students from a particular school, we can forego WES for that school. But how can we verify an applicant's identity? Can we use any member of NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation Services)? C. Danehower suggested waiving WES if the applicant's university is recognized; but who decides which university is recognized? Is it OK if faculty members have contacts at a particular foreign university? The consensus was to use any member of NACES, but we need to verify which services are most accurate. Dr. Weddle-West asked Council members to discuss it with their faculty over the summer.

371.4.3 Graduate Faculty Status. K. Weddle-West reminded Council members that graduate students will not be approved for graduate faculty status and cannot teach graduate courses. She asked members to remind their constituents of this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Hurley.