

COMMITTEE: Educational Policies and Planning

MEETING DATE: Friday, April 7, 2017

PERSON PRESIDING: Don Chaney

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kanchan Das, Mark Bowler, Don Chaney, Michael Duffy, Donna Kain, Christy Walcott

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: George Bailey, Lori Flint, Tom McConnell, Leslie Pagliari

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:, Lori Lee, Karen Summey, Kristen Dreyfus, Elaine Scott, Bob Chin, Mark Angolia, Jean-Luc Scemama, Derek Maher, Chris Jantzen, Heather Ries, Robert Campbell, Paul Bell, Hayden Griffin, Venkat Gudivada

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of March 17, 2017 EPPC meeting minutes

Action Taken: Approved as amended

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

Agenda Item: Revision of the Academic Program Review Guidelines
Unit: Institutional Planning, Assessment, and Research
Representative: Kristen Dreyfus

Discussion: Dr. Dreyfus, Director of Institutional Assessment, presented the latest revision of the Academic Program Review Guidelines. Committee members recognized that the revised guidelines are presented here with clarity and coherence.

Action Taken: Motion to approve the guidelines was unanimously passed with two changes made to the document. First, the redundant flowchart on page 5 is to be omitted. Second, add to page 9, line 8 the words “by EPPC,” after the initial phrase “If the Unit Response is not accepted . . .”

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

Agenda Item: PhD in Nursing Academic Program Review
Unit: College of Nursing
EPPC Reviewer: Tom McConnell
Representative: Elaine Scott

Discussion: Professor Scott, Chair of the Department of Nursing Science, discussed the Nursing Department’s response to the recommendations of the external review committee that conducted its on-site review of the PhD program on November 28-30, 2016. She initially noted that the department has integrated most of the actions and outcome measurements resulting from the recommendations into current reporting mechanisms within the college. Scott stated that a major priority, recognized by the reviewers, is the hiring of mid-level senior scientists. More money is needed in this endeavor. A second major need, also identified in the recommendations, is to have more diversity in the student body. Among the 18 new applicants

considered for admission in the current year, 3 were identified as diverse. Scott stated that lack of diversity is a national problem with the workforce of nurses being identified as 85% white, in recent statistics. Scott also commented on establishing earlier advisement for improving student outcomes and on the further development and assessment of hybrid courses.

Professor Kain suggested the possibility of cluster hires. A case could be made for requesting scientists. Professor Walcott suggested that interdisciplinary faculty could be utilized. Dr. Flint noted that people could be brought in with a background in external funding. Mary Farwell, who has experience with this, could be consulted. Dr. Scott stated that the culture of the University could be used to attract potential faculty. The Office of Equity and Diversity may be able to help with this.

Action Taken: Motion to approve the unit response of the College of Nursing, PhD program, to the external review recommendations was unanimously passed.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Revision of Existing Degrees: Design, BS and Industrial Distribution and Logistics, BS
Unit: Department of Technology Systems
Representative: Leslie Pagliari, Bob Chin and Mark Angolia

Discussion: Professors Chin and Angolia stated that faculty in the two degree programs in the Department of Technology Systems, the BS in Design and the BS in Industrial Distribution and Logistics, propose to decrease the total number of hours to graduation from 124 hours to 120 hours. They strongly believe that the proposed revision will help students graduate in 4 years. The accrediting body recognizes the revision as a good idea. There will be no impact to faculty in different schedules of course offerings. Professor Kain requested that the prerequisites DESN 3039 and DESN 3038 be added back in, rather than deleted, in the revised curriculum.

Action Taken: Motion to approve the revision of the existing Design BS and Industrial Distribution and Logistics BS in the Department of Technology Systems was unanimously passed, as amended.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Proposal of A New Minor: Composite Science Minor
Unit: Department of Biology
Representative: Jean-Luc Scemama and Derek Maher

Discussion: Dr. Maher, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, stated that the new composite science minor would help students progress more rapidly toward their degree, saving them one or more semesters. Currently students have to pivot in another program, resulting in as many as 140 or 150 total credit hours. The existing science minor in the College of Education, which is rigid and requires 24 credit hours, will be eliminated. This new minor is a formalization of an informal minor that was used frequently by students in psychology.

Professor Bowler asked if this new minor would encourage students not to take higher-level courses. Professor Scemama, Director of Undergraduate Education, Department of Biology, responded that it should encourage breadth in course selection. Professor Bowler asked if the Minor name could be modified as "Composite Natural Science Minor." Professor Scemama said that it could. The new minor will be housed in THCAS rather than in a code unit in order to maintain its interdisciplinary character. Students taking this

composite minor might very well be completing a degree in social science (history, psychology, criminal justice, for example). Maher believes that the proposed minor will lead to a broad literacy in natural sciences.

Action Taken: Motion to approve the new composite science minor with Professor Bowler's title modification was unanimously passed.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Proposal of an Integrated Degree Pathway: Mathematics Integrated Bachelors/Masters
Unit: Department of Mathematics
Representative: Chris Jantzen and Heather Ries

Discussion: Professor Jantzen, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Mathematics, recognized the goal of the integrated bachelor/ master of arts in Mathematics to increase enrollment in the MA degree program which is currently considered a low productivity program. The time to completion is also reduced since students within 6 hours of finishing their undergraduate degree can apply to the MA program and start taking courses in the graduate program. One or two graduate courses taken as an undergraduate will reduce the time to an MA degree by a semester on a reasonable schedule for a good student (a 12 credit hour load and/ or summer classes) and can reduce graduation to an extra year. A maximum of 9 credit hours can be double-counted, depending on courses needed for a thesis or non-thesis track. The department has 8 assistantships, which would be used more efficiently by reducing the time to degree. Jantzen also pointed out that a similar program at UNC-Wilmington has produced 1-2 additional graduate students per year. The integrated program at ECU will reduce the need for course substitutions particularly if students take the graduate version of a course and count it for both degrees.

Action Taken: Motion to approve the Integrated Bachelors/Masters Degree Pathway was unanimously passed.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Removal of an Existing Concentration: HIM Concentration, Health Informatics and Information Management, MS
Unit: Department of Health Services and Information Management
Representative: Paul Bell or Robert Campbell

Discussion: Professor Campbell described the request to remove the Health Information Management (HIM) concentration from the Master of Science (MS) Degree in Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIMS) and the reasons for this proposed action. For bachelor degree holders in the Department of Health Services and Information Management who need RHIA eligibility to take the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) credentialing exam, they can either earn a second degree in the newly reinstated BS in HIM or take the HIM post-baccalaureate certificate program. Students who complete the HIM certificate program can still apply for the MS in HIIM program and transfer five common courses once admitted. The reviewers of the accrediting body for the discipline, the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM), during their 2017 site visit specifically advised that the Department should develop a plan to differentiate Health Informatics from Health Information Management in the graduate program on campus and in the public.

The proposed change will not affect the overall number of credit hours required for students to complete the degree. There will be no impact on budget and the graduate faculty course load will not be affected.

Action Taken: The proposed removal of the existing HIM Concentration in the MS degree in HIIM was unanimously passed.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Proposal of a New Degree Program: Request to Plan an MS in Mechanical Engineering
Unit: Department of Engineering
Representative: Tarek Abdel-Salam

Discussion: Professor Hayden Griffin, Chair of the Department of Engineering, stated that the proposed Master of Science (MS) in Mechanical Engineering represents the next step in the evolution of the Department of Engineering. The Department is proposing a face-to-face MS in Mechanical Engineering with two key areas: Advanced Energy Systems and Mechanics of Biomaterials. These areas will distinguish the ECU program as they are not the main focus of similar programs in the State of North Carolina. There are many productive Engineering faculty without access to graduate students. Faculty are already quite effective in obtaining grants, but cannot do more without graduate students, who would help to complete the research. This limits the faculty member's ability to seek additional funding. Engineering students were surveyed online and 97% of respondents support the proposed MS and approximately 80% intend to join the MS program, if offered at ECU, within the next two years. The Engineering Advisory Board (EAB), which is composed of about 40 members from industry, consulting firms, education, and government laboratories, offers guidance to the Department on a regular basis. The EAB is highly supportive of the proposed MS program. Regionally, companies are looking for students with graduate level training.

The current enrollment in ECU's undergraduate engineering program is about 704 students, of which 57% of the students are in the Mechanical Engineering concentration. Department of Engineering faculty currently have primary expertise in energy and mechanical engineering. The Department expects to put new allocations into enrollment growth funding. Grant money would be a new allocation. An important emphasis of the proposed MS is the new opportunity for partnerships within the University among programs in Dental Medicine, Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, Health and Human Performance, and Sustainability. Currently, the Biomedical MS attracts students in the engineering program. Faculty resources are sufficient for the initiation of the MS program. A 0.5 FTE faculty position in year 2 is requested. This position will be a joint hire with the School of Dental Medicine. In addition, a 1.0 FTE faculty position is requested in year 3.

Professor Kain asked Dr. Flint if question 1 of the Planning stage was being carried out. Flint replied that this request to plan would be vetted with the appropriate campus bodies. Karen Summey writes the question 1 response at the end of the campus review process, before submission to UNC-GA.

Action Taken: The request to plan an MS in Mechanical Engineering was unanimously passed.

Assigned additional duties:

Agenda Item: Proposal of a New Degree Program: Request to Plan a BS in Software Engineering
Unit: Department of Computer Science
Representative: Venkat Gudivada

Discussion: Professor Gudivada, Chair of the Department of Computer Science, pointed out the need for the proposed BS in Software Engineering. He mentioned the older program, the BA in Computer Science, which required a minor and a foreign language, and did not give students much room for developing technical skills. The proposed BS in Software Engineering (or BSSE), meets educational objectives prescribed by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), our specialized accreditor. The new program seeks to guarantee reliability, a secure system, and ensures that the design is maintainable. There is a

considerable market and demand for this degree. Software Engineers are in high demand and computer software is pervasive in all walks of life. This demand for software engineers will only accelerate given the emergence of computing disciplines. Students can expect to be gainfully employed immediately after graduation. Graduates of the program will have the requisite knowledge, tools, and current industry practices to work in a range of software-intensive industries.

The target audience for this program will be high school seniors and community college transfer students. The program will be delivered using face-to-face instruction and targets full-time students. The core consists of 13 required and 5 elective Software Engineering courses, which will fold into 120 semester hours required to earn the degree. We will be the first in North Carolina to offer this. North Carolina State University has a different focus. The BS in Computer Science at ECU will continue to be popular, drawing more students.

Action Taken: The request to plan the BS in Software Engineering was unanimously passed.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Agenda Item: Proposal of a New Degree Program: Request to Plan an MS in Data Science

Unit: Department of Computer Science

Representative: Venkat Gudivada

Discussion: Professor Gudivada pointed out that every prospective employer asks if the applicant knows information science, data learning. Data Science was promulgated in 2013 with the IEEE Task Force on Data Science and Advanced Analytics. North Carolina State University has an MS program in Data Analytics, which receives several hundred applications for admission. NCSU caps the enrollment at 120. A similar situation exists with the MS program in Data Science and Analytics at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Based on these numbers, we conclude that the ECU 2-year MSDS program enrollment projections are conservative and achievable: first year enrollment of 20 full-time students, and a total enrollment of 60 full-time students in the fourth year. Duke University is starting in 2017 a 10-month program in Data Science entitled Master of Quantitative Management, which is focused on business, and emphasis is not on computational aspects and Data Science, which will be a focus at ECU. Data Science at ECU will enable research with other departments. The ECU program will have exclusive focus on healthcare and medical domains and will draw upon local resources: Vidant Health, the pharmaceutical industry, and the ECU Medical School, Dental School, Nursing School, School of Public Health, and College of Allied Health Sciences. The ECU Data Science program aims to produce leaders and innovators who will help to reduce healthcare costs and improve quality of care through Big Data-driven decision making. More specifically, the program will prepare students to provide data-driven innovative solutions to challenging problems in the healthcare domain. Professor Bowler suggested using the same CIP Code for both concentrations.

Action Taken: The request to plan the MS in Data Science was unanimously passed.

Assigned additional duties: N/A

Announcements/ Updates:

Professor Walcott stated that the external review of the on-site visitors for the Department of English is being scheduled for the following Tuesday on April 11.

Professor Bowler reported on his review of the Department of Communication Sciences, which is writing its response to the external reviewers' report.

Dr. Flint reported that during the summer, Academic Planning will be sending out a Request for Inclusion of new degree programs. She noted that we have seen an increase in program planning this year.

Professor Chaney recognized that he and Professor Bowler, substituting for him, are sitting on the Academic Council.

Professor Chaney thanked committee members for their persistence and excellent work during the academic year.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Duffy