

Report on the status of ECU's Request to Establish a Joint PhD in Integrative Coastal and Marine Sciences with UNCW.

2/9/18

Don:

I am writing to ask that you present this information in the form of an announcement at an EPPC meeting. Let me know if you would like me or someone to be present to explain what transpired and answer questions. I will present this information in the form of an announcement at the Feb. 12, 2018 Graduate Council meeting.

On January 31, 2018, we called a meeting of faculty affiliated with the Coastal Resource Management PhD program to discuss the recent Request to Establish a Joint PhD in Integrative Coastal and Marine Sciences with UNCW. The Chancellor has been holding this proposal on his desk. During discussion at the Jan 31 meeting with me and the Provost, many of the faculty felt it would be too costly to execute, they wish to maintain tighter control over the curriculum, and they see a need to focus their efforts on leveraging our presence in the new facility at CSI in Manteo. At the Jan 31 meeting, it was decided to conduct an electronic vote by Qualtrics to withdraw the joint PhD proposal. A majority of tenured faculty voted to withdraw the proposal. I and the Provost concur.

We consulted the Chair of the Faculty on the appropriate process to follow concerning withdrawal of this proposal. His advice on the matter is as follows: "Since the program was never actually established, I don't think there is any formal process required as there would be in the case of termination of an existing program. Ultimately, the Chancellor (or designee) has the authority to withdraw a proposal, or reject one that has been approved to that point. The vote to withdraw by the faculty involved was certainly important to obtain, but I don't see a need to vet that vote further through the Senate in any formal manner."

The time and effort invested by the faculty resulted in what we believe is an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum. The faculty agree that they would like to pursue development of the new curriculum and program revisions without UNCW's partnership. A smaller group of faculty is developing the appropriate curriculum revision documents which will be submitted through the usual campus approval processes in due course: Faculty vote > GCC > GC > EPPC > FS. It is anticipated this will be a level 3 curriculum change.

Thanks in advance for your help on this matter.

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