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April 22, 2008

Dr. Gail Morrison
Director, Division of Academic Affairs and Licensing
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Dr. Morrison:

Attached is a program planning summary for a new program, the PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Science that is being proposed by the College of Health Professions. The planning summary has received approval by the College of Health Professions and the Deans Council. All institutional bodies will review and approve the final proposal which we hope to submit on August 15 after the planning summary is reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs of the Commission on Higher Education.

Thank you for your assistance in the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Greenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ray" and last name "Greenberg" clearly legible.

Raymond S. Greenberg, MD, PhD
President

RSG:mch

CC: Dr. John R. Raymond, Sr.
Dr. Mark Sothmann
Dr. Becki Trickey

PROGRAM PLANNING SUMMARY

Name of proposed program: PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Science

Academic Unit: Medical University of South Carolina, College of Health Professions, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Designation, type, level of degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2009

CIP Code: 51.23, Rehabilitation and Therapeutic Professions

Program Identification: New

The College of Health Professions (CHP), Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) proposes to offer a new post baccalaureate degree program, an interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences currently offers two Master of Rehabilitation Sciences Degrees, one with an emphasis in Occupational Therapy and the other in Communication Sciences and Disorders. A Doctor of Physical Therapy degree is also offered. The three degrees are all professional entry level degrees as is required by each profession's accrediting agency. The proposed PhD will be a minimum of 90 SH post baccalaureate research degree and will primarily draw students from rehabilitation professional programs currently offered and from other disciplines relevant to rehabilitation, such as, athletic training, sports medicine, bioengineering, and nutrition among others.

Proposed Date of Implementation: CHP and the Department are prepared to offer the program and enter students for the fall 2009 semester, pending approval by the Commission on Higher Education.

Justification of Need for Program: The purpose of this interdisciplinary PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is to develop research scientists and scholars who, through their leadership and research will contribute to the knowledge base of health and rehabilitation sciences and who can serve as future faculty in professions where there are documented faculty shortages. There is a critical need to develop such scholars so that South Carolina can be positioned as a national leader in the emerging field of rehabilitation sciences. South Carolina mirrors national trends with approximately 17% of the population having at least one disability or activity limitation. A corresponding trend in SC and the nation is the increasing prevalence of chronic medical conditions that lead to disability. This trend is expected to continue in the state and nationally as the aging population increases and the rates of obesity and diabetes continue to grow. South Carolina is expected to continue to be a retirement destination with a resultant growth in the number of persons over the age of 65. Thus, the disability issues related to chronic disorders will continue to be a major health concern. Recent landmark reports by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) state that there is a critical need to develop scholars and to build infrastructure in the health and rehabilitation sciences.

The World Health Organization defines health as “not merely the absence of disease and infirmity but a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being”¹ The IOM defines Rehabilitation as “the process by which physical, sensory, or mental capacities are restored or developed through both function change in the person and changes in the physical or social environments” (p.3)² ; the IOM defines Rehabilitation Sciences as “a field of study that encompasses basic and applied aspects of the health sciences, social sciences, and engineering. It is the melding of knowledge from several disciplines to understand the fundamental nature of the enabling-disabling process”(p.5)³. The IOM model factors in the person’s functional needs as well as the environmental modifications needed to facilitate functional independence and improve quality of life.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity: Initially, 3-5 students will be accepted annually. The number is deliberately small to ensure that adequate resources are available to support the development of a quality program. Slow and incremental growth in student numbers will occur as the program is fully implemented and additional funding opportunities are secured. The anticipated start date will be fall semester 2009. After the first three years, the admission of 5-10 students each year would be expected, building to a total of 15-20 students.

CHP conducted an internal needs assessment, surveying 893 people (803 students, 61 faculty members, and 29 clinical staff members), with a response rate of 12%. Sixty-three people responded that they would consider enrolling in a PhD program in health and rehabilitation science, with 24 rating their interest as high and 34 rating their interest as somewhat high. Nationally, the IOM has called on universities with existing programs in disciplines related to rehabilitation science to develop doctoral and postdoctoral degree programs to meet expanding research needs.

Prospective students will have completed a bachelor’s or master’s degree that offers background and preparation in areas such as functional limitations, disability issues, pathology and impairment. Prospective students will be expected to have earned degrees in such areas relevant to rehabilitation as preparation for gaining expertise to engage in research, education and health delivery services in rehabilitation sciences.

Assessment of extent to which program duplicates existing programs in state: The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences is the only academic unit in the state that has a principal focus of educating graduate level rehabilitation sciences health professionals. The proposed program is consistent with the mission of the CHP, which “seeks to improve the health of South Carolina residents through research and by educating health professionals involved in all phases of the complex art of healing and restoring the human body.” Located within an Academic Health Center, the CHP is uniquely positioned to bring together resources in the health care

¹ Constitution of the World Health Organization. Chronicle of the World Health Organization. Geneva Switzerland: WHO 1947.

^{2,3} Brandt, E. & Pope, A. Eds. (1997). *Enabling America: Assessing the role of rehabilitation science and engineering*. Institute of Medicine. National Academy Press: Washington, DC.

and research areas. The proposed program also is consistent with the mission of MUSC of “preserving and optimizing human life in SC and beyond by providing an environment for learning and discovery”.

Relationship of the proposed program to existing programs at the proposing institution: The proposed PhD Degree will be offered with the College of Graduate Studies. Students will have the opportunity to take courses with other students from research-based master and doctoral programs. The relationship with the College of Graduate Studies greatly increases the number of potential faculty mentors and advisors for students, and enhances the program’s ability to partner and collaborate with other disciplines critical to the study of rehabilitation sciences. The CHP has a Center for Health Economics and Policy (CHEP) and a Program for Movement, Exercise and Rehabilitation Research, which will provide critical components for the study of rehabilitation outcomes, effectiveness and efficiency.

Relationship of proposed program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation: MUSC and Clemson have partnered to create a bioengineering presence on the MUSC campus. An area of increasing importance is rehabilitation engineering that represents the interface of rehabilitation sciences and bioengineering. It is anticipated that a concentration area of the proposed program will incorporate Clemson bioengineering. Curricular and research partnerships will be developed and implemented with the School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina to integrate core elements essential to rehabilitation sciences, such as, exercise science, athletic training, and nutrition that are not currently strengths on the MUSC campus.

Currently there are approximately 12 research based doctoral programs in rehabilitation sciences in the United States. The closest programs geographically that are in existence are at University of Florida and University of Kentucky. Both of those programs are deliberately small in numbers and are not able to fulfill the demand for advanced study in rehabilitation sciences.

Total new costs associated with implementing the proposed programs (general estimates):

No new funds from the state are being requested for the proposed PhD program. The MUSC and CHP are prepared to invest resources initially to ensure the financial viability of the program. Research and training grants received by the CHP faculty should provide some support for curriculum development and research assistants. The CHP will apply for federal funds presently available for doctoral education in rehabilitation sciences.

Faculty will be drawn from within the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, the CHP and university. The Department currently is searching for one research faculty member to add to a core of currently funded faculty with a research focus. One of our current faculty members will be named program director to bring the expertise and devote the necessary time to ensure the success of the program. Personnel costs for faculty will be the major expense for the proposed program. A program director will be named for 50% time initially devoted to program implementation and administration. Additionally, six rehabilitation sciences faculty members will be assigned to the program for a portion of their workload. Total faculty salary costs are expected to be approximately \$221,000 for year one.

The dean will invest \$1,000,000 to develop research and training laboratories in rehabilitation sciences. These laboratories will be essential for the department to build the research agenda and doctoral program.