

ACAP
Agenda Item 1
7/14/10

Advisory Committee on Academic Programs

Minutes of March 18, 2010

Members Present

Dr. Gail Morrison, Chair
Dr. Richard Chapman, Francis Marion Univ.
Dr. Marsha Dowell, USC-Upstate
Dr. George W. Hynd, College of Charleston
Dr. Tom Moore, Winthrop
Dr. Gina Mounfield, Technical College of the Lowcountry
Dr. Suzanne Ozment, USC-Aiken
Dr. Chris Plyler, USC System
Dr. Robert Sheehan, Coastal Carolina
Dr. Walt Tobin, O-C Technical College
Dr. Harvey Varnet, USC-Beaufort

Staff Present

Dr. Argentini Anderson
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Renea Eshleman
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Trena Houpp
Ms. Erin Konkle
Mr. Clint Mullins
Dr. Michael Raley

Guests Representing Members

Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC-Columbia, representing Dr. Michael Amiridis
Dr. Martha Hanks, Midlands Technical College, representing Dr. Ron Drayton
Dr. Debbie Jackson, Clemson (teleconference), representing Dr. Doris Helms
Dr. Tara McNealy, The Citadel, representing Dr. Sam Hines
Mr. Tom Nelson, Lander University, representing Dr. Danny McKenzie
Ms. Hope Rivers, SCTCS, representing Dr. Cheryl Cox
Dr. Darlene Shaw, MUSC, representing Dr. John Raymond

Guests

Dr. Lisa Benson, Clemson
Dr. David Fleming, Clemson
Dr. Michael Flynn, College of Charleston
Dr. Perry Halushka, MUSC
Dr. Zahra Hazari, Clemson
Dr. Geoff Potvin, Clemson
Ms. Sandra Powers, College of Charleston
Dr. Ken Rogers, Coastal Carolina

Dr. Gail Morrison called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. She then asked the institutional members to introduce themselves.

1. Consideration of Minutes of January 14, 2010

Dr. Morrison requested a motion to accept the minutes of January 14, 2010, as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Finnigan) and **seconded** (Ozment), and the Committee **voted unanimously to accept the Minutes as distributed.**

2. Presentation on “Best and Brightest” Graduate Scholarship Proposal

Dr. Morrison introduced Dr. Perry Halushka, Professor and Dean of Graduate Studies at MUSC. She explained that Dr. Halushka is actively involved in the Graduate Professional Alliance, a new working group formed in the last year to strengthen the recruitment and retention of graduate students in the state.

Dr. Halushka thanked the Advisory Committee for the opportunity to present his draft proposal on graduate scholarships, the Best and Brightest program. He explained that the program proposes that the best and brightest students in the STEM disciplines be recognized in late high school or in undergraduate education and then offered summer research experiences and the opportunity to begin graduate school during their fourth year of their undergraduate career. He also stated that the long term goal of the program is to recruit the graduate students to work within the state and at the state’s universities after completing their advanced degrees. Dr. Halushka presented the advantages of the program: It will provide undergraduate institutions a rare recruitment tool, provide a way to track the best high school students, and provide a way for S.C. to increase its knowledge-based economy. Dr. Halushka reported to the group that Senator Leatherman responded with interest to an Op/Ed article which described the program and ran in The State and The Post and Courier. He also told the Committee that he met with Senator Leatherman and discussed the program and its next steps. Dr. Halushka then asked the Committee for input, suggestions or questions.

Dr. Sheehan expressed his support for the program and stated that his President would be willing to endorse it. Dr. Moore supported the programmatic element of research experience for top-rated undergraduate students with a NIH-level graduate stipend but expressed concern about students not experiencing the fourth year of undergraduate education. He continued by explaining that Winthrop’s Honors and Leadership Distinctions are earned in the fourth year. Dr. Halushka responded that he foresees the program as supporting flexibility. He gave an example of a fourth-year student staying and completing his/her undergraduate degree at Winthrop while also partnering with faculty at a research university for a collaborative research experience.

Dr. Halushka referenced a potential challenge for the program for state scholarship recipients. Dr. Morrison responded by stating that the program might offer different “pathways” or opportunities for a wide array of students. Dr. Halushka again stressed the need for feedback from the institutions so that strong partnerships can be built between undergraduate and graduate institutions within this program.

Dr. Hynd commented that 30% of The College of Charleston’s math and science graduates continue their education at graduate school. He added that it would be interesting to know the percentage of Palmetto Fellows Scholars across the state who continue on to graduate school. Dr. Halushka noted that suggestion.

Dr. Morrison thanked Dr. Halushka for his time and participation. Dr. Halushka invited further comments and suggestions from the Committee by providing his email address: halushpv@musc.edu. He then explained that GPA plans on finalizing the draft in order to garner institutional presidents' endorsements and approach possible donors for named scholarships. Dr. Sheehan asked about the timeline for implementation, and Dr. Halushka responded by stating as soon as possible.

3. Discussion of Presentation to CHE on New Programs

Dr. Morrison reported to the Committee concerns raised by the Commissioners at the most recent CHE meeting. She stated that a few Commissioners not serving on the Academic Affairs and Licensing Committee expressed concern over the number of new programs being proposed. Dr. Morrison explained that few Commissioners understand the academic program development and approval process, especially the process that exists internally at institutions. She reported to the Committee that she was asked to make a presentation at a future CHE meeting regarding the process, and she suggested that a panel discussion might be helpful. Dr. Morrison added that it might be helpful to have institutional representatives speak to the institutional process of developing and approving new academic programs, including the institutional governing board approval process. Dr. Morrison then opened the discussion for comments and suggestions from the Committee. Dr. Jackson suggested that Dr. Doris Helms serve on the presentation panel because the process that the Clemson Provost Office uses for internal decisions about academic programs is well-documented and intense.

Ms. Rivers suggested that the number of new academic programs be researched and tracked for the last several years to see if there is a trend of lower numbers of programs being presented for approval. Dr. Morrison also shared with the Committee that she is considering presenting the program termination report to the Commission quarterly rather than annually.

Dr. Dowell mentioned that it is possible that the Commission does not realize the impact market and job trends and changes in science have on why institutions bring new academic programs forward. Dr. Morrison added that programs change and grow and require action often. Dr. Finnegan stated that she agrees that more than one institutional representative should be included on the panel. Dr. Tobin suggested that a representative from the technical college system be included. After concern expressed by Dr. Sheehan about the right of the state having input into academic programming when state funding levels are so low, Dr. Morrison explained that Commissioners are asking a broader question of whether institutions should be offering new programs in the current funding climate. Dr. Sheehan stated that institutions must continue offering new programs in order to stay competitive. Dr. Hynd suggested that the panel explain that even if there are multiple programs of Computer Science, for example, across the state, the programs are not necessarily duplicative programs and they might differ according to orientation, target audience, market need or region. Dr. Morrison agreed and stated that CHE staff try to make the programmatic differences clear in the staff analyses. Dr. Plyler suggested that an institutional Board member be a part of the panel. Dr. Sheehan suggested Dr. Oran P. Smith, Chair of the Academic Affairs on Coastal's Board of Trustees, serve on the presentation panel because of his 15 years' experience as Academic Affairs Chair.

Dr. Morrison thanked the members for their input.

4. Consideration of Program Planning Summaries

a. B.A., Intelligence and National Security, Coastal Carolina

Dr. Robert Sheehan introduced the planning summary from Coastal Carolina. It was **moved** (Sheehan) and **seconded** (Hynd). Dr. Sheehan introduced Dr. Ken Rogers as the Chair of the Politics and Geography Department. Dr. Sheehan reported to the Committee that eight universities in the nation are currently preparing intelligence and national security personnel for employment. He continued by stating that the personnel positions are not entry-level criminal justice or entry-level security positions but ones found at the FBI, CIA, NSA, Homeland Security and similar organizations. Dr. Sheehan explained that Coastal emulated the degree program model used at Point Park University in Pittsburgh. He continued by stating that Coastal was approached about the degree program by many security personnel retirees in the area who offered their services as adjunct faculty. Dr. Sheehan explained that Coastal has student interest; program costs would be low due to federal agencies supplying curriculum and viability is expected because of the growth seen at other institutions.

Dr. Tobin asked about the credentials of the faculty. Dr. Sheehan informed the members that the University is recruiting an individual with a law degree or bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology or criminal justice. Dr. Rogers added that the University would like to hire an individual with experience in the field or a Ph.D., if possible.

Dr. Dowell asked whether this degree is an upper division major. Dr. Rogers explained that a student could declare as a freshman but would have to take core curriculum courses first before thirty hours of intelligence courses and 18 hours of upper division electives as upperclassmen. He reported that students will be required to take "a strong dose" of ethics classes.

Dr. Dowell asked whether the students would be required to have background checks since most of the curriculum would be considered classified information. Dr. Sheehan clarified that students will get security clearance as juniors. He continued by stating that the degree program is a niche program which has tremendous potential for the Myrtle Beach area, especially in regards to military bases.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for Coastal Carolina to develop a new program leading to the B.A. degree with a major in Intelligence and National Security, to be implemented in Fall 2010.

b. B.S., Exercise Science, College of Charleston

Dr. George Hynd introduced the planning summary from the College of Charleston. It was **moved** (Hynd) and **seconded** (Chapman). Dr. Hynd informed the Committee that this new degree program will replace a concentration within the physical education degree. He reported that currently there are 130 students in the concentration preparing for careers in physical therapy, exercise science, physician's assistance, occupational therapy and allied health. Dr. Hynd introduced Dr. Michael Flynn representing the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Dr. Sheehan inquired whether existing laboratories were in the exercise science concentration. Dr. Flynn reported that the laboratories are in place and most will undergo slight renovations in June. Dr. Finnigan informed the members and Dr. Hynd that USC-Columbia's program was not included in the list of state programs in the program planning summary. Dr. Moore also apprised the members that Winthrop is also missing from the list. Dr. Finnigan asked why the program hours were listed as 48. Dr. Flynn explained that the total amount of hours for the degree is 122, while the 48 hours represent the core and the professional track. Dr. Morrison encouraged Dr. Hynd to clarify that section in the program proposal.

Dr. Sheehan relayed to the members that the Exercise Science degree program at Coastal has been a huge growth program for the institution and that Coastal graduates are finding employment opportunities.

Dr. Moore asked whether this program would qualify for the STEM scholarship supplement, noting that the program at Winthrop does not. Dr. Morrison confirmed that the College's program would not qualify for the scholarship supplement either.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for the College of Charleston to develop a new program leading to the B.S. degree with a major in Exercise Science, to be implemented in Fall 2011.

c. **M. Ed., Teaching and Learning, Clemson**

Dr. Debbie Jackson introduced the planning summary from Clemson. It was **moved** (Jackson) and **seconded** (Dowell). Dr. Jackson informed the Committee that this new program will replace existing Master of Education programs in mathematics, science, English, social studies and elementary education. She explained the core and specialty courses of the program. Dr. Jackson continued by stating that this program will be a better utilization of the resources within the School of Education. She also introduced Dr. David Fleming, the developer of the curriculum for the proposed program.

Dr. Morrison advised Dr. Jackson to include references to similar programs at Coastal, USC and College of Charleston in the final proposal. Dr. Jackson agreed to include the programs. Dr. Morrison asked the institutions with similar programs whether their enrollments have improved. Dr. Sheehan answered that Coastal's program is too new and therefore enrollment improvement cannot be determined yet. He did add that anecdotal comments and feedback seem to be positive. Dr. Finnigan stated that she was not familiar with USC's program enrollment numbers. She added that USC has submitted a notification of change that USC's program will be delivered 100% by distance learning.

Dr. Morrison asked the Committee members for their theories on why there has been a lapse in Master's degrees in these specific fields. Dr. Fleming spoke anecdotally regarding Clemson. He relayed to the Committee his opinion that consolidating the degrees gives teachers more options in pursuing employment and does not limit teachers to pursuing a teaching position in one specific field.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for Clemson to develop a new program leading to the M.Ed. degree in Teaching and Learning, to be implemented in Fall 2010.

d. Ph.D., Engineering and Science Education, Clemson

Dr. Debbie Jackson introduced the planning summary from Clemson. It was **moved** (Jackson) and **seconded** (Finnigan). Dr. Jackson informed the Committee that with this new degree program, Clemson hopes to establish a nationally unique graduate program in STEM education and research. She explained that students entering the degree program would be required to have a Master's degree or the equivalent in a STEM discipline. She continued by stating that Clemson seeks to prepare a new group of teachers who are interested in STEM education and how to increase STEM education for K-12 and university level teaching. Dr. Jackson informed the Committee that Clemson has faculty in place to teach the program and that costs to the University will be very limited.

Dr. Sheehan expressed concern that no new resources will be needed to add a Ph.D. program, especially considering requirements for dissertations and load issues for doctoral faculty. Dr. Jackson reported that faculty in this department already oversee doctoral students. She explained that the change would be in the shifting of degree focus for the doctoral students. Dr. Sheehan encouraged Clemson to clarify in the full proposal that the program is not expected to add a large number of new students. Dr. Jackson agreed and notified the Committee that Clemson expects to have approximately five students in the program. She also mentioned that Clemson anticipates that students in the University's certificate program for doctoral students might move into the Ph.D. program.

Dr. Morrison asked whether Clemson's other doctoral programs would have sufficient numbers of students if this new doctoral program is added and students transfer to this new degree program. Dr. Jackson answered affirmatively.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for Clemson to develop a new program leading to the Ph.D. degree with in Engineering and Science Education, to be implemented in January 2011.

5. Consideration of Program Modifications

a. B.A., Production Studies in Performing Arts, Concentration in Audio Technology, Clemson

Dr. Debbie Jackson introduced the program modification from Clemson. It was **moved** (Jackson) and **seconded** (Sheehan). Dr. Jackson explained that Clemson seeks to move audio technology from an emphasis area within the music concentration of Production Studies in Performing Arts to a separate concentration in Production Studies in Performing Arts due to rapid enrollment growth in audio technology. Dr. Morrison asked whether Clemson's audio technology concentration is different from the recording industry program which is currently offered through the Academic Common Market. Dr. Jackson responded that the audio technology degree is different from the recording industry program so that the recording industry program should remain in the Academic Common Market

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the modification from Clemson to modify the program leading to the B.A. degree in Production Studies in Performing Arts by adding a concentration in Audio Technology, to be implemented in August, 2010.

b. B.A., Science Teaching, Concentration in Chemistry, Clemson

Dr. Debbie Jackson introduced the program modification from Clemson. It was **moved** (Jackson) and **seconded** (Ozment). Dr. Jackson explained that Clemson's science education programs are trying to coordinate efforts with disciplines across campus so that students can double-major. She added that Clemson would like to add an option for its B.A. in Science Education in the area of Chemistry.

Dr. Morrison asked what the difference was between the B.S. degree and B.A. degree. Dr. Jackson answered that the difference results from language requirements and students who seek the B.S. degree are not allowed to double-major. Dr. Morrison asked whether the B.S. degree requires more hours. Dr. Jackson answered that the B.S. degree does require more hours overall, but the hours are typically equal when compared with a double-major B.A. degree. Dr. Morrison asked for Clemson to confirm this information in order to address any duplication questions that might arise. Dr. Jackson answered that Clemson would provide the information.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the modification from Clemson to modify the program leading to the B.A. degree in Science Teaching by adding a concentration in Chemistry, to be implemented in Fall, 2010.

c. M.S.D. (Master of Science in Dentistry), Endodontics Track, MUSC

Dr. Darlene Shaw introduced the program modification from MUSC. It was **moved** (Shaw) and **seconded** (Hynd). Dr. Shaw explained to the Committee that the program modification involves adding an endodontics (root canal) track to the M.S.D. program. She informed the members that South Carolina lags well behind other southeastern states in the number of endodontists per population and that this program will meet an important need. She described the program as a two-year one which will admit three students per year.

Dr. Morrison asked why MUSC hasn't made this addition before now. She continued by asking whether the profession has changed in such a way to prompt this addition. Dr. Shaw informed the members that there has been a national movement of dentistry toward subspecialization.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the modification from MUSC to modify the program leading to the M.S.D. degree by adding a track in Endodontics, to be implemented in July, 2010.

6. Consideration of Revised Guidelines for Federal Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program, FY 2011-2012

Dr. Morrison introduced this item. It was **moved** (Nelson) and **seconded** (Varnet). Dr. Morrison notified the members of technical changes in the document. Dr. Gregg added that the document includes a few clarifications from last year's document but contains no substantive changes. She referenced a change on page ten, Section B, which clarifies that indirect costs of 8% cannot be applied towards tuition costs. Dr. Gregg also informed the members that the federal audit will occur in May.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the Revised Guidelines for Federal Improving Teacher Quality Competitive Grants Program, FY 2011-2012.

7. Consideration of Revised Guidelines for EIA Centers of (Teacher) Excellence Competitive Grants Program, FY 2011-2012

Dr. Morrison introduced this item. It was **moved** (Dowell) and **seconded** (Ozment). Dr. Morrison reported a substantive change from last year's Guidelines on page five, the section entitled "Priorities for Funding," Item Number One. Dr. Morrison explained that there is a broad array of topics of interest. Dr. Gregg added that there were no other changes in the document besides date changes.

Dr. Gregg informed the Committee that ITQ and Centers of Excellence project presentations were scheduled for the May, 2010, CHE meeting.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the Revised Guidelines for EIA Centers of (Teacher) Excellence Competitive Grants Program, FY 2011-2012.

8. Consideration of Annual Report for AP Course Acceptance Policies, FY 2009-10

Dr. Morrison introduced this item. It was **moved** (Sheehan) and **seconded** (Nelson). Dr. Morrison referenced that USC-Beaufort's policies were under review and then asked Dr. Varnet whether he would help determine a final response. Dr. Varnet answered affirmatively. Dr. Morrison asked Dr. Plyler whether he would help determine a final response from USC-Union on its policies which are also under review.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the Annual Report for AP Course Acceptance Policies, FY 2009-10.

9. Consideration of Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, FY 2009-10

Dr. Morrison introduced the draft report. She explained that data from S.C. State and Lander were either pending or under review. Dr. Morrison asked the Committee members to review their respective institution's data for accuracy. She referenced a new table in the report, Table 3C: *Fall 2008 First-Time Freshmen Who Didn't Meet High School Pre-Reqs Retained at Same Institution in Fall 2009*, on page eleven. Dr. Morrison reported that students who met the pre-requisites for their freshman year generally had higher year-to-year retention rates than did those not meeting the pre-requisite requirements.

Dr. Morrison relayed to the Committee further information regarding pre-requisites. She clarified that CHE staff have received calls about Algebra IA and Algebra IB, previously known as Applied Mathematics, a tech-prep course. She explained that CHE staff are not encouraging schools to accept Algebra IA (one year course) and Algebra IB (one year course) plus two more mathematic courses as meeting the four-year mathematic requirement.

Dr. Morrison advised the Technical College System to consider recommending pre-requisites to high school students. She explained that, given the sophistication of many of the technical college programs, students will be well-served by meeting these pre-requisites.

Mr. Nelson asked whether this report would come before the Committee prior to going forward on a CAAL agenda. Dr. Morrison answered that a final draft would be emailed to ACAP for review and commenting, but then the report would be sent straight to CAAL for consideration.

Dr. Sheehan asked Dr. Morrison whether institutional presence was needed at CHE meetings. Dr. Morrison answered affirmatively, explaining that often Commissioners do not provide questions or concerns with the consent agenda until the Commission meeting. She, therefore, encourages institutions to provide representation at any CHE meeting in which the institution's programs are being discussed.

10. Notifications of Change and/or Termination, April-December, 2009

Dr. Morrison presented the report for information.

9. Other Business

Dr. Morrison presented information regarding provisos being considered this legislative session. She relayed to the Committee that one proviso would eliminate special considerations in offering in-state tuition rates to out-of-state students. She explained that the passage of this proviso would have adverse effects on the Academic Common Market programs. She continued by stating this proviso would remove the opportunity for military personnel and their offspring to pay in-state tuition while they are stationed in S.C. Dr. Morrison stated that she would research the proviso number and distribute it to the Committee members.

Dr. Morrison also notified the Committee of another proviso which, if passed, would require a certification process of majors for students who receive Life or Palmetto Fellow Scholarship enhancements. She expressed her intention of studying enhancements to determine whether they are helping to increase enrollments of students in the STEM disciplines.

Mr. Mullins presented a brief overview of the SC TRAC rollout, scheduled for April 1. He thanked the Committee members who were crucial partners in the process of establishing the web portal, and he explained that CHE staff and Academy One were busy making the final corrections for the rollout. He also mentioned the partnership with the S.C. Educational Lottery for the creation of Public Service Announcements for the SC TRAC rollout.

Dr. Morrison reminded the Committee members to submit updates for the Action Plan Status Report. She stated that Ms. Houpp had emailed a request for any institutional actions regarding the Higher Education Action Plan.

Ms. Houpp reported an update on the Course Alignment Project. She explained that the pilot implementation phase is coming to a close. She relayed to the Committee that the pilot phase has involved 17 pilot courses being taught in 32 classrooms across the state. She informed the Committee of positive feedback from the schools involved in the pilot program.

Ms. Houpp briefly updated the Committee on the second round of the Public Computing Center (PCC) portion of the larger Broadband grant application. She explained that CHE has been involved in the application for funding for high definition telepresence sites to deliver program content, possibly for The New Front Door and *DegreeSC*. Mr. Mullins updated the Committee on the progress of the Race to the Top grant application, submitted jointly with the S. C. Department of Education. He told the Committee that S.C. was one of 16 finalists for the grant and that recently a team from S.C. had presented to the grants committee in Washington, D.C. He further explained that if awarded CHE would be given funding to sustain the Course Alignment Project and support the Longitudinal Data System.

Dr. Morrison thanked everyone for coming and reminded them that the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2010. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.