

DRAFT Summary Meeting Minutes of the Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies

Ohio Department of Higher Education
25 South Front Street
7th Floor Main Conference Room #7-001
Columbus, Ohio 43215

March 18, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:35 a.m. by Chair Marshall Montrose of the University of Cincinnati. The following universities were represented: University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, University of Dayton, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo, and Youngstown State University. The representatives for Case Western Reserve University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, and Wright State University were absent.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 22, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

REQUEST FOR NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Ohio University Doctor of Nursing Practice: Faculty from Ohio University presented the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. Following the presentation and a round of questions and answers, there was a motion to approve the proposal, and it was moved and seconded. CCGS members voted unanimously in favor of the program in a thirteen "Yes," zero "No" vote. The representatives for Case Western Reserve University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, and Wright State University were absent.

Associate Vice Chancellor, Dr. Stephanie McCann of the Chancellor's staff, will take the Ohio University Doctor of Nursing Practice program request to the Chancellor for final approval.

INFORMATION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL:

REQUEST FOR DEGREE NAME CHANGE (TITLE CHANGE):

Kent State University request for a Degree Name Change from the existing Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology to Ph.D. in Psychological Science ***Approved by CCGS on March 18, 2016**

Kent State University request for a Degree Name Change from the existing MA in Experimental Psychology to MA in Psychological Science ***Approved by CCGS on March 18, 2016**

University of Dayton request for Degree Name Change from the existing Ph.D. in Engineering to Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering – Discussion ensued as to whether this request was simply a name change. It was decided that this was more than a name change since UD intends to keep the Ph.D. in Engineering as there are other programs of study within engineering which would not fall under Electrical Engineering. UD will discuss the best course of action and resubmit a request or proposal at a later date. ***Denied by CCGS on March 18, 2016**

REQUEST FOR ONLINE DELIVERY FORMAT:

Kent State University request to offer the existing Master of Science in Nursing in an Online or Blended/Hybrid Delivery format ***Approved by CCGS on March 18, 2016**

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM INACTIVATION:

Kent State University request to inactivate the MA in Musicology program with no intention of reactivating ***Approved by CCGS on March 18, 2016**

Kent State University request to inactivate the MA in Early Childhood Education program with no intention of reactivating ***Approved by CCGS on March 18, 2016**

REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS:

Kent State University request to suspend admissions to the MA in Clinical Psychology program with no intention to reopen the program - The program will automatically be inactivated after five years. ***Approved by CCGS on March 18, 2016**

*Note: The Program Inactivation and Suspension of Admissions forms need to be edited and/or combined, so that they are compatible with the new guidelines. In the current round of voting, the PROGRAM INACTIVATION votes are meant to indicate the immediate discontinuance of programs that do not have any current students. The SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS vote indicates that programs have current students that will seek to complete the degree prior to the full discontinuance of the program at a later date.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Health Insurance for Graduate Students

- New federal guidelines may make it difficult and/or impossible to provide subsidies that help graduate students pay for the cost of student health insurance, because such policies are

considered private health insurance rather than group health insurance. It is hoped this will be resolved prior to the implementation date in 2017.

- Chair Montrose is going to send out the ruling from the IRS that came out recently.
- Members discussed the need to plan ahead, which may include a state-wide effort investigating the possibility of alternative insurance.

Is a PDP needed when an approved degree track evolves to a separate new degree (with a less than 50% change)?

Members pointed out that this is indeed addressed in the guidelines in **Part A, Section IV, Letter C** (page 14), which states the following: “When an institution seeks to create a separate new degree designation for a specialization currently offered within an existing degree with or without eliminating the original designation, submission of a Preliminary Development Plan is optional.”

Note: There is strange lettering in the guidelines on page 14. Megan will change the letters of the definitions to bullets.

Graduate credit for activity at conferences and workshops

Steph McCann initiated a discussion surrounding the practice some institutions have (both private /for-profit, and public) of awarding CEU’s or transcribed credit for attendance at a workshop or conference. The concern is that there is no uniformity or standard applied across the board to these “credits” and there should be if they are listed on a student’s transcripts and a student believes they are receiving graduate credit. ODHE policy currently prohibits the offering of credit where a student has not demonstrated that they have earned graduate level credit. ODHE is in the processing of developing guidelines that provide a guarantee of rigor so that institutions can offer credit in certain circumstances. Steph gave CCGS members a draft of a new form, *Request for Awarding of Graduate Credit Outside of Already Existing Degrees*, and discussion ensued.

Several important points surfaced during the discussion:

- We have an obligation and responsibility to bring consistency and ensure quality.
- One institution may give transcribed credit for a conference or workshop and tell the student it doesn’t count towards a program. But that doesn’t stop another institution from seeing the credit on the transcript and counting it toward one of their programs. Other institutions would not know it wasn’t “real graduate credit.”
- There may be many students out there who believe they have real graduate credit because they have taken a number of these “courses” (workshops, etc.). And they believe they are getting graduate education.
- It is important to distinguish between professional development, continuing education units, and graduate credit.
- It was suggested to set a minimum standard for what constitutes legitimate graduate credit and not hone in on the mode of delivery.

- Are there state guidelines for giving credit for work experiences?

After much discussion, it was decided that the conversation should continue via the listserv and center the discussion around a definition of graduate credit and the minimum requirements needed for something to qualify as graduate credit.

How should missed review deadlines be handled to maintain consistency?

CCGS members discussed the frequently occurring issue of institutions failing to provide reviews of PDPs and FP's by the stated deadlines. Some of the problem has to do with particular times of year that are more hectic for CCGS members and school faculty. There was discussion as to whether to institute a black-out period during the busy times of year (when PDP's and FPs are not submitted), or to extend review deadlines during these times of year. In general, members did not like the idea of having a black-out period. Institutions have fairly strict timelines on their approval processes, and establishing a black-out period can further delay an already lengthy approval process. Members discussed the possibility of moving the January meeting to February, or having a meeting in both January and February. Limiting the review period to three weeks was also discussed. The overall consensus was that a February meeting (in place of January) is a good idea and that deans should request reviews with a 3 week turnaround, giving a 2 week buffer prior to the CCGS deadline. Messages to reviewers should let them know that if they are late on providing feedback to a full proposal, they have lost the opportunity to provide input on that degree.

What is HLC's role in program approval / accreditation?

HLC made some changes to their policies in September 2015 and there is confusion among CCGS members as to the exact policies and role of HLC in the program approval process. Members have received conflicting information from different HLC representatives. Many members had the impression that once a program was approved through the CCGS, nothing further was needed (aside, perhaps, a notification letter to HLC). Steph McCann expressed her understanding that if an institution already has a Master's level program approved by HLC, she wouldn't expect HLC to review subsequent Master's programs. But if an institution had never offered a Masters or Ph.D. before, HLC would definitely come in and review the first one. CCGS members expressed concern that HLC's changed policies are going to hamper an already lengthy approval process and prevent citizens of Ohio from having timely access to educational opportunities. Members asked Steph if she could obtain answers from her contact at HLC and potentially have an HLC rep come and speak to CCGS. Steph put forth the idea of providing a letter to HLC at the beginning of the PDP (or FP) process, indicating a sort of preliminary approval from ODHE (as HLC does not want to approve anything that ODHE has not approved).

CALL FOR May 20, 2016 FORMAL PRESENTATIONS FOR NEW DEGREE REQUESTS

Chair Montrose asked if there are requests for new degree presentations for the May 20, 2016 CCGS meeting. The following programs are requested for presentation:

- University of Dayton – Master of Finance
- Bowling Green State University – Master of Social Work
- Cleveland State University – Master of Social Work to be offered independently (from previous partnership with University of Akron)
- University of Akron – Professional Master of Science in Polymer Science
- Kent State University – Master of Athletic Training

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.