

Draft
Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
October 12, 2005
Donnelly Library, Room 327

- 1. Members Attending:** Dr. David Sammeth, Dr. Jill Baker, Dr. Donna Woodford, Dr. Alice Menzor, Dr. Ken Bentson, Dr. Dan Houtchens, Dr. Lee Stauffer, Dr. Margaret Young, Professor Bob Mishler, Mr. Allen Schwartz, Dr. Luis Ortiz, Dr. Carolyn Newman, Mr. Jesse Lopez, Dr. James Leger and Dr. Joseph Sabutis, Faculty Senate.

Members Absent: Dr. Rey Martinez.

Ex-Officio Members Attending: Dr. Placido Gomez and Mr. John Coca.

Others Present: Dr. Celestino Mendez, Mariah Gomez, and Linda LaGrange

- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Sammeth requested approval of the agenda. Dr. Baker made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Houtchens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Old Business –** Dr. Sammeth reported the only item on the agenda the Proposed Ph.D. Psychology Program. He indicated that Dr. LaGrange would be available to answer any questions the committee might have.

Dr. Sammeth reported that The Higher Learning Commission for the North Central Accreditation of Colleges and Schools (NCA) would need to approve the Ph.D. in Psychology program after it was approved at State level. Dr. Sammeth cited requirements regarding the process of reporting the program to NCA.

Dr. Sammeth reported that NCA would require a well-written comprehensive analysis that includes financial statements. Dr. Sammeth indicated that he let Dr. Hill know and she is looking into it. In addition, the NCA's Liaison would need to be contacted to develop a timetable for seeking approval.

Dr. Bentson made a motion to approve the Proposed Ph.D. in Psychology. Dr. Houtchens seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Proposed Ph.D. in Psychology discussions involved the following:

- How many sites had reviewed the proposed program and what were their responses. There was concern that there was no clarity as to who had reviewed.
- A great opportunity brings prestige to Highlands University and the administration is committed to the success of this program.

- Dr. Sabutis read to the Committee what he reported to the Board of Regents in July 2005. “During the Fall 2005 the Faculty Senate anticipates that there is new program(s), reorganization(s) which would be proposed. The FS wants the Administration to involve both FS and the Academic Affairs Committees in planning to assist the timely implementation of these changes. The faculty would like to see data presented to support the need of proposed changes, identification of staffing and facilities before initiation and clear financial institutional support that will sustain the changes in the long term.”
- There was concern about having enough personnel on site to run the program. What about facilities is the Psychology department big enough to house a Ph.D. program?
- Is there sufficient financial support? There needs to be clear indication that this program would have the funding.
- Benchmarks are needed to lineate the successes of the program and whether it’s working or not.
- Implement a Master Plan to cover academics.
- Vice President Gomez, at this point, informed the committee that he had met with President Aragon and he again reiterated his long-term goal commitment to the Ph.D. program. President Aragon has committed a budget for the first year as well as subsequent years.
- Space utilization a concern. Vice President Gomez indicated that the Science Annex is being renovated.
- Will funds be sought from the Legislature?
- Was budget thoroughly reviewed, if so, will the budget cover ITV courses, computers, replacements and so forth? Vice President Gomez indicated that the budget does include budget for technology, 5-year replacement of the computer system and computers.
- Program hastily assembled, politically motivated.
- Dr. Gomez disagreed that the program politically motivated. The proposal was initiated by the faculty and administration and was discussed thoroughly.
- Dean Mendez indicated that he sees this program as being cost-effective. Investment in to this program will bring additional students; both undergraduate and graduate level student resulting in revenues, graduate students will teach which will minimize cost. Dr. Mendez went on record to say that the College of Arts and Sciences is committed to the success of this program.
- Will this program be best for the student body as a whole? Will this program impact other programs that are not doing as well on campus?
- The University has resources to provide programs at a graduate level, which will bolster undergraduate level students.
- If there is a demand for such a program there should be no problem in recruiting the number of students needed to make enrollment.
- Concerns that this program is planned out well academically, but needs to be developed well and maintained in a timely fashion.

- Does NCA have precise stipulations about Library resources for graduate programs? Would NCA come back and look at the stipulations for a Ph.D. program?

Dr. Sabutis then made a motion to have a closed vote on the Proposed Ph.D. Program in Psychology. Dr. Bentson seconded the motion. There were 12 in favor, 1 opposed and no abstentions. Motion passed.

4. **Adjournment** – Dr. Houtchens made a motion to adjourn. Jesse Lopez seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.