

New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans

Sunset Room, Second Floor of the Student Memorial Building at
Western New Mexico University,
Noon to ~2:00 pm , September 16, 2005

Agenda

The order of items in this agenda will be adjusted to accommodate the presenters of new graduate programs (item 6a).

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes of the January 10, 2005 NMCGD meeting
3. Announcements
 - a. NM-AGEP Reapplication (Johnsons)
 - b. HED Report (Landrum)
 - c. other
4. Degrees in the pipeline – reports from each campus
5. Old Business
 - a. Report of UNM MSCE considerations after 1/10/05 (Wolhert)
 - b. Carruthers' Legislative initiative – update (Lacey)
 - c. Consideration of changes to graduate certificate approval process – not addressed because of the changes that CHE is undergoing.
 - d. other
6. New Business
 - a. Presentation of New Program Proposals
 - 1) UNM – Certificate Program in Women's Studies (Wolhert)
 - 2) UNMU – Master of Science in Information Security Degree Program (Vowell)
 - b. Data needed from HED staff (Johnson/Landrum)
 - c. Election of NMCGD Officers (Johnson)
7. NMCGD's Dialog (All)
8. Scheduling of next meeting
9. Adjournment



The University of New Mexico

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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January 10, 2005

Dr. Letitia Chambers, Executive Director
New Mexico Commission on Higher Education
1068 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM. 87505

Dear Dr. Chambers:

On behalf of the New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans (NMCGD), I am following up on a discussion you and I had regarding the approval process of transcribed graduate certificate programs. The Council strongly recommends and supports an expedited process for approval of graduate certificate programs of study. This will certainly allow us to be more responsive to professional and economic development needs in the state without compromising the integrity of the review process.

In general, graduate certificate programs are built upon a core of existing courses (generally 12 to 18 credit hours) and existing resources, allowing graduate students to acquire specialized skills and knowledge in professional and/or concentrated areas. Our graduate certificate constituencies often include personnel in K-12 education, health services, military bases, national labs, and the private sector. Graduate certificate programs are also potential recruitment tools for extended graduate study.

As you know, the approval of certificate programs is currently the same as the process for new graduate degree programs. We believe that an expedited process is critical to meeting New Mexico's workforce development needs. With our current extended process we are potentially at a disadvantage in meeting the advanced professional educational needs. We therefore request that the CHE work with us in streamlining this process for graduate certificate programs meeting the following criteria:

- Certificate programs requiring no new resources
- Certificate programs built upon existing or approved coursework
- Certificate programs existing of less than 20 semester credit hours

The New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans recommends that the NMCGD be allowed to provide final approval of these certificate programs and that the Council be responsible for reporting these approved programs to the CHE. We request that you take this proposal to the Commission for a decision. Any one of our members would be glad to address the Commission to elaborate on this matter and why it is so critical. We look forward to your response to our request and hope that the Commission can come to a decision that will help us better serve our New Mexico graduate students.

Respectfully,

Teresita E. Aguilar, Ph.D.
Dean, UNM Graduate Studies

Xc: NMCGD minutes (1/10/05)

David Johnson

From: Teresita E. Aguilar [taguilar@unm.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2005 4:25 PM
To: djohnson@admin.nmt.edu; 'Lacey, Linda'; 'Clarence Sanchez'; 'Faye Vowell (Vowell, Faye)'; 'Junius Logan (Logan)'; 'Linda Lacey (Lacey, Linda)'; 'Maestas, Susie'; 'Margaret L. Gonzales'; 'Paul Landrum'; 'Phillip Shelley (Shelly, Phillip)'
Cc: awohlert@unm.edu; mibanez@unm.edu; cecchi@unm.edu; rdasenbr@unm.edu; blfoster@unm.edu
Subject: RE: Certificate Letter to the CHE
Importance: High

Colleagues

Thank you for the "prompt," Dave. You are correct in that there seemed to be a misunderstanding of our intent regarding graduate certificates. I was not able to attend the meeting on the second day, but can report on what was presented at the Education Program Committee meeting.

Dr. Chambers distributed copies of the letter to the committee members and shared that we were requesting a procedure for expedited review of programs. She added that full review was required by statute and therefore would/could not be changed easily. There was no discussion on the matter following her general statement on the letter. I am not sure that there was a clear understanding, nor distinction made of graduate certificate programs vs. degree programs. On the other hand, since this was not presented as an item on the agenda, it is perhaps unreasonable to expect further or in-depth discussion. I think, therefore, that we should request this as an agenda item for a future meeting. [I've attached the letter for those who may not have received a copy earlier].

I noted that there is a special meeting scheduled next week.

[<http://nmche.state.nm.us/AgendaTabItems/special%20meeting.pdf>]

Maybe we can ask Dr. Chambers to include the letter as an information item in her upcoming report. If this is not reasonable, then we should certainly move to have this as an item at the April meeting.

I would also like to report on the education program committee's discussion pertaining to the three new proposed programs by UNM. The programs were presented as "information only", and will be voted on by the full commission at the April meeting. The M.F.A. in Creative Writing sailed through the process with praise, particularly given on the recent news of a \$1 million gift for this program. The masters in Construction Management was less fortunate in the review. The committee chair felt that this proposal was "incomplete" without monetary commitments from the private sector, and that their absence was noted at the meeting itself. While this perspective was not unanimous among the three-person committee, it was clear that this would be considered a shortcoming within the CHE review/approval process. The question was also raised as to whether practitioners with masters degrees in construction management would actually increase the cost of projects and have a negative impact on the economy. The third program (M.S. in Computer Engineering) was received with little discussion and no controversy.

All for now, though I do believe we need to be proactive regarding graduate education in New Mexico!

Teresita

9/13/2005