

The Graduate School
New Mexico State University
MSC 3G/ P. O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
(505) 646-5746 Fax: (505) 646-7721

July 7, 2006

New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans (NMCGD)

Final Minutes of the February 24, 2006 meeting of the NMCGD New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico (Prepared by Linda Lacey, Chair lacey@nmsu.edu)

Present: David Johnson (New Mexico Tech); Maggie George (representing Dr. Josephine DeLeon of the New Mexico Higher Education Department); Amy Wohlert (University of New Mexico); Phillip Shelley (Eastern New Mexico University); Patricia M-Gonzales (Western New Mexico University for Dr. Faye Vowell) and Placido Gomez (New Mexico Highlands University)

The meeting began at 2:30 pm. The minutes of the December 5, 2005 meeting were approved by the Council. Corrections will be made to the spelling of Dr. Phillip Shelley's name.

The proposal for a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology was presented by Dr. Linda LaGrange, a faculty member in the Psychology department. A number of supporters including President Manny Aragon of the University gave positive support for the proposal. A letter from the President of the Board of Regents (President Javier Gonzales) of New Mexico Highlands University was shared with the Council which indicated support for the proposal.

The Council raised several concerns about the proposal. Maggie George presented the written comments of Dr. J. DeLeon of the NMHED. Dr. DeLeon's comments were given to Dr. Linda LaGrange who made copies for the Council and select members of the audience. The comments from NMHED raised concerns about the ability of the faculty to support a School Psychology program. The comments from NMHED indicated that the proposal didn't meet the NASP accreditation requirements in terms of faculty member requirements (at least 3 full time faculty members are required for a School Psychology program by APA). NMHED also raised concerns about licensing requirements related to graduate credit hour requirements.

Other council members raised concerns about the time frame for seeking accreditation. Dr. LaGrange indicated that students must be enrolled in the program prior to the submission of an accreditation application. Questions were also raised about whether the program has adequate faculty to offer the program. Dean Tino Mendez of the College of

Arts and Sciences indicated that his college will hire two additional faculty members for the proposed Ph.D. program in 2007 and 2008. It was suggested by the Council that a written letter about the commitment of new faculty slots be included with the proposal.

Questions were also raised about offering a research versus a professional doctoral degree program. Research based Ph.D. programs require a great deal of research on the part of faculty and students. It was suggested that a professional doctoral degree be pursued since the proposal focuses on training professionals rather than future faculty. Questions were also raised about student supervision for the internship requirements. Representatives from local health care agencies in the audience indicated that they will play a role in the placement and supervision of graduate students within their agencies.

Questions were also raised about the types of students to be served by the program. The program would target students of color. It was mentioned that Native American and Hispanic students require a great deal of mentoring. With the high course loads of faculty, mentoring of students would be limited. Questions were also raised about whether the curriculum could meet the needs of a diverse student body. It was also mentioned that a diverse student body requires a diverse faculty.

Concerns were also raised about the thesis load for faculty. Based on the proposal, faculty will teach classes and chair up to 7 thesis committees in addition to undergraduate and master's degree teaching and advising.

At around 4:00 pm the public audience and Dr. Linda LaGrange were asked to leave the room. In the closed meeting, the majority of Council members decided not to vote on the proposal. The Council asked that the comments discussed in the meeting be incorporated into a revised proposal. Issues of accreditation need to be addressed. Concerns about faculty load also need to be addressed in the revised proposal. New Mexico Highlands University also needs to decide if they want a research versus a professional doctoral degree program. One of the Council members also raised concerns about the impact of the proposal on the mission of the institution.

At the end of the discussion on the proposal, the detailed comments by faculty of NMSU were shared with the Council member representing NMHU. It was suggested that the comments be provided to faculty of NMHU to improve the proposal. Faculty at NMSU raised questions about offering a clinical doctoral degree versus a professional doctoral degree since the proposal focuses on practice versus research. The written comments also raised questions about the admissions process. It was unclear whether the program accepts students straight from an undergraduate degree program or a master's degree program. Concerns were also raised about the ability of the proposed program to meet accreditation requirements. Given that the focus is on educating minority students, questions were raised about the ability of those students to complete 15 credits per semester. It was also mentioned that NMHU lacks faculty that can teach School Psychology which is a requirement for accreditation.

In the December 2005 NM Council of Graduate Deans meeting, draft guidelines for developing new degree programs were shared with the Council. The suggestions from the December meeting were incorporated into the revised draft guidelines. The chair of the Council presented a copy of the revised guidelines dated February 13, 2006 to the Council. The revised guidelines were accepted by the Council. They will be submitted to New Mexico Tech to be placed on the web site of the Council. The chair of the Council provided an update on the request for new graduate assistantships across the state. Governor Richardson rejected the proposal that was jointly developed by the chair of the Council and NMHED.

The University of New Mexico raised concerns about NMHED requesting approval for undergraduate programs without providing guidelines to develop undergraduate new degree proposals. It was agreed that this would be raised at our next meeting with Dr. Jozi DeLeon.

The meeting concluded at 4:30 pm.