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New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans (NMCGD)

**Draft Minutes of the June 28, 2006 meeting of the NMCGD
New Mexico Tech, Socorro, New Mexico
(Prepared by Linda Lacey, Chair lacey@nmsu.edu)**

Present: David Johnson (New Mexico Tech); Dr. Josephine De Leon (New Mexico Higher Education Department); Amy Wohlert (University of New Mexico); Marcia Bourdette (Western New Mexico University for Dr. Faye Vowell) and Placido Gomez (New Mexico Highlands University)

New Degree proposal presenters: a) Dr. James Peach---Doctorate of Economic Development; b) Charles Fleddermann---Certificate in Systems Engineering and c) Leslie A. Danielson---Masters Degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Review of the Minutes of February 24, 2006: The meeting began at 10:15 am on June 28th. The minutes of February 24, 2006 were amended. The amended minutes will include a statement concerning the need to have a diverse faculty for diverse students as part of the discussion of the review of the proposal for a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at New Mexico Highlands University.

Update on activities from institutions: The discussion focused on the request of NMHED spring 2006 for five year plans for new degree proposals. Just about all of the universities are revising and prioritizing the list of new degree proposals that were submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) last month. NMSU and UNM shared their criteria for internal evaluation of new degree proposals. For NMSU in particular, the criteria are being used to reduce the list of 40 plus new degree proposals to a list of 10 to 12. It is hoped that during the next New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans meeting, the priority lists of institutions will be shared. A concern was raised about a proposal for a Ph.D. in School Psychology at NMSU. It was mentioned that the proposal would compete with the Ph.D. degree proposal in Clinical Psychology developed and presented in February 2006 to the Council by Highlands University. While the proposal of NMSU is on their five year list, nothing has been written at this stage. The next degree proposal from NMSU will be a collaborative Ph.D. in Information Technology and Management with UNM, and New Mexico Tech.

Proposal presentations:

a) Dr. Leslie A. Danielson presented the Masters Degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences for UNM. Several questions were raised about the proposal including the use of adjunct faculty. Many of the faculty members listed as adjunct faculty is full time faculty in other departments on campus. Questions were also raised about meeting short term verses long term needs and showing stronger evidence of demand for the program. Dr. Danielson discussed the long term needs of medical technology and medical laboratory technicians and the inability of the few schools that offer similar programs in the United States to meet long term demands, especially as the USA population ages.

Outcome of the vote: The proposal received unanimous approval.

b) Dr. James Peach presented a proposal for a Professional Doctoral degree in Economic Development. Several questions were raised including the rationale for a professional doctoral degree verses a traditional doctoral, the types of competencies or skills that individuals will have once they complete the program, and the market for a professional degree in economic development. Questions were also raised about whether is it an overload for faculty to teach throughout the state. Dr. Peach indicated that most employers will pay for the degree. He also indicated that NMSU will rely on faculty in two departments to offer the program including Agriculture Economics as well as the Economic and International Business department. As a land grant university, NMSU will take advantage of its extension sites as well as its office in Albuquerque.

Outcome of the vote: a vote was not taken. The Council is supportive of having a doctoral degree in economic development. However, the proposal needs to be expanded especially if it is to gain approval of the NM Board of Finance. The differences between a traditional Ph.D. in Economics verses a professional doctoral degree needs to be addressed in the proposal. For example, how does the course work differ between the two? The proposal also needs to discuss the types of skills or competencies students will develop in the program. A listing of courses needs to be placed in the proposal along with other degree requirements. Statement on the demand for the program also needs to be improved. Who will hire the students once they complete the doctoral degree? What evidence exists that these students will be hired?

Dr. Amy Wohlert of UNM agreed to provide additional suggestions on how to improve the proposal. She is working at the national level on definitions of professional doctoral degrees in her field of expertise. Dr. Linda Lacey indicated that she would provide information on the specialization in economic development in the field of regional development planning, since the doctoral degree in regional planning is also considered as a professional degree in economic development.

c) Charles Fleddermann presented a proposal for a Certificate in Systems Engineering. The certificate is designed to meet the needs of UNM mechanical and electrical engineering graduate students that are interested in systems engineering. It is also designed to meet the needs of civilian and military employees of the Kirtland Air Force base that have a master's or doctoral degree. At present, a certificate is offered by faculty of the Air Force Institute of Technology to both groups of potential students for the

certificate. In the near future, adjunct faculty will be hired by UNM to offer the courses and a UNM certificate. Questions were raised about whether this was a contract intended to meet the needs of Kirtland Air Force base or a true stand alone certificate that would be available to on campus graduate students in engineering as well as individuals with master's and doctoral degrees in engineering.

Outcome of the vote: The proposal was approved with three in favor, two against and one abstention. Concerns about whether the proposal is a contract verses a stand alone certificate influenced the vote.

Update from the New Mexico Higher Education Department: Dr. Josephine De Leon, Deputy Secretary of NMHED, gave a brief update that included a discussion of the meeting of the Chief Academic Officials that took place on June 19th where a number of issues were discussed including clarifications on certificate programs, the need to streamline the review process, and the budget analysis needs of the NM Board of Finance. It was stated that Dr. Beverly McClure, Cabinet Secretary of NMHED, wants a simple new program degree approval process. Dr. De Leon also mentioned that NMHED is approving all higher educational new degree proposals including that of community colleges, undergraduate degree programs and graduate degree programs.

Dr. De Leon asked the New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans to review and offer suggestions for improving 5 NMAC 5.2 which is an administrative code (Post-Secondary Educational Programs Approval of New Graduate Programs). The Council indicated that they would like certificate programs excluded from 5 NMAC 5.2. The chair of the Council, Linda Lacey, agreed to circulate 5 NMAC 5.2 as a word document so deans can use the track changes tool available in Microsoft to offer suggestions for improvements. Suggested changes for 5 NMAC 5.2 must be submitted to Dr. De Leon by August 1, 2006.

Dr. De Leon discussed efforts to inform the NM Board of Finance about the review process that takes place within universities, and during the state level meetings of the NM Council of Graduate Deans, and the NM Council of Chief Academic Officers. The chair of the Council agreed to provide a statement to Dr. Leon on the review process that takes place during the meetings of the NM Council of Graduate Deans. A draft of the review process will be developed by Linda Lacey and circulated among the NM Council of Graduate Deans for review and suggestions. Several suggestions emerged during the meeting that will be incorporated into the first draft copy.

The meeting adjourned around 1:30 pm.