

MINUTES
UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING

May 8, 2003
Bluestone Room, Mountainlair

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members: Stephen Alway, Khashy Aminian, Ron Balvers, Robyn Blakeman, Patrick Callery, Andrew Hawkins, Wafik Iskander, Katherine Karraker, Brett Kenney, Ann Oberhauser, Kerry Odell, Tim Sweet, Virginia Thompson, Dick Walls, and Arthur Weldon

Ex-officio Members: Rosemary Haggett and Robert E. Stitzel

Visiting: Ann Richards, Lynn Cartwright, and Conrad Lundeen

Approval of March, 2003 Minutes

The council asked that one sentence be omitted from the original minutes concerning Program of Excellence

Discussion of Proposed Changes in Special Education – Ann Richards

Dr. Richards reported that this program change came about because of the need for multi-categorical personnel that needed to be trained in this state. Dr. Richards reports that one of the significant changes is that instead of using Psych 612, students will be starting a new course called Practice 675. This proposal requests approval of a plan to convert the existing individual programs in Mild/Moderate Mental Impairment, Learning Disabilities, and Behavior Disorders into a single multi-categorical program in Mild/Moderate or High Incidence Disabilities. The plan would include the following changes:

For certification only;

- changing the titles of two existing courses
- combining two courses in each program of six courses into three new courses, or one in each categorical area
- incorporating one existing course from another program
- adding a new multi-categorical practicum experience for nine credit hours instead of three separate practica for 12-18 credit hours.

For certification plus degree;

- eliminating one course by adding technology competencies across all courses
- adding one Special Education Course on action research to replace EDP 612.

It is also noted that the total hours do not remain the same. For certification students will be able to earn 3 certificates totaling 33 hours instead of 39-48 hours. For certification plus degree, students will be able to earn a degree after taking 6 additional hours instead of 9-12 hours. Dr. Richards concluded by assuring council members that by changing

things WVU will be able to meet the standards of the governing boards as well as market our students better professionally.

After discussion among Graduate Council members a question arose as to what is the difference between the project option and the thesis option. Dr. Richards explained that most students take the project option when they are planning on going on to get a Ph.D. The requirements are the same except that they take a problem in special education and pick a faculty member to work with. A motion was made by Dr. Andrew Hawkins and seconded by Dr. Ron Balvers to accept Special Education's proposed program changes.

Discussion of Revised Request to Change the Entry Level M.S. in Audiology to an Entry Level Clinical Doctorate in Audiology (Au.D.) – Dr. Lynn Cartwright and Dr. Conrad Lundeen

Audiology has changed in the last few years and in response to new standards and degree requirements for entry level education in Audiology set forth by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association as well as to prospective students' requests, it is essential to change the entry level degree requirements from a master's to a clinical doctorate in audiology. National accreditors have mandated the implementation of clinical doctorates by 2012. Of 123 university programs in the United States currently, there are five programs that offer a clinical doctorate through distance learning, twenty-one programs that initiated clinical doctorates in Fall 2002, and thirteen that have announced that an Au.D. Program is in the planning stage. Therefore, thirty-nine of 123 programs have begun to offer clinical doctorates in audiology or intend to do so in the near future.

There is a heavy course load in year one of the Au.D. In year two there is 50/50 split of clinical work and academics while year three consists mostly of clinical on-site and off-campus work. Year four consists of a full time clinical residency at a site remote from the campus. Right now WVU students take 54-credit hours during their masters degree program; they wish to change course requirements to 106 credit hours. Much of the increase involves the clinical residency. The faculty senate has reviewed the new curriculum coursework and approved it. The program intends on admitting 10 students each year.

After discussion among council members a motion was made by Richard Walls and seconded by Andrew Hawkins to approve the change from an entry level masters degree in Audiology to an entry level clinical doctorate in Audiology. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjourn

