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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
REGENTS' OFFICES, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

MAY 30, 2008

Utah State Board of Regents
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents Building, The Gateway
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284

May 21, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: David L. Buhler

SUBJECT: Consent Calendar: Academic, Career and Technical Education and Student Success (Programs) Committee

The following have been submitted for consideration by the Regents on the Consent Calendar of the Programs Committee.

A. *University of Utah – Discontinuance of the Physical Therapy BS*

Request: The University of Utah seeks to discontinue the Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy Studies, effective immediately. With the implementation of the Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2004, there is no further need for the BS.

Need: This degree is a remnant of the Master of Physical Therapy degree that has been discontinued. The last Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy Studies was awarded in 2003 and it has not been awarded since.

Impact: No students have pursued the degree since that time and none is currently pursuing it. All programs in physical therapy are at the graduate level with essentially all of them offering the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. None of these programs offers additional bachelor's degrees.

Finances: There is no downside financially to the program or institution by discontinuing this degree.

B. *Utah State University – Bachelor of Science in Economics Degrees in China*

Request: Utah State University seeks authorization to offer its approved Bachelor of Science in Economics degree in China, effective Fall 2008.

Need: Utah State University has worked collaboratively with institutions in China to deliver the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, with concentrations in International Economics and Information Technology, since 2000. Partner institutions include Northeast Dianli University (Jilin City), the Beijing Institute of Technology (Beijing), and the Institute for Advanced Learning (Hong Kong). At present there are approximately 600 students enrolled in these programs.

Instruction in these programs is provided through an enhanced model of distance delivery, where course materials and examinations are prepared in an online accessible Blackboard Vista format by Utah State University faculty. These materials provide the basis for face-to-face instruction by Chinese faculty in the classroom of USU's partner institutions who are selected and approved by USU. All courses are taught in English. Supervising administrators and faculty from USU periodically visit these sites to provide oversight and to direct additional educational experiences for USU students.

In reviewing the program it has been determined that a large portion of these students would be better served by the more specialized and marketable Bachelor of Science in Economics degree. The Department of Economics is prepared to administer, oversee and direct this degree offering. Under this proposal, Utah State University would begin offering the Bachelor of Science in Economics upon approval of the Utah State Board of Regents and the Chinese Ministry of Education. The university intends to phase out the delivery of the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in China once the economics degree is authorized. The program will be self-supporting and offered in collaboration with existing partners.

Institutional Impact: From an institutional standpoint, the impact of this transition is expected to be minimal. Students in the Interdisciplinary Studies program are already receiving a significant number of economics courses. Hence, transitioning to the economics degree will only involve a few minor course adjustments, reducing coverage in information technology and adding economics courses in their place. As a part of the transition, the existing program administrator and staff will be reassigned from the Regional Campus and Distance Education unit to the Department of Economics. As these employees will remain in their present office location, this will be simply an administrative transition, not a physical relocation. Hence, no additional costs are expected to be incurred.

Finances: From its inception, the programs delivered in China by Utah State University have been delivered on a self-support basis. Transitioning to an economics degree is perceived by USU's Chinese partners as a program enhancement. As such it is anticipated that program revenues, net of program costs, will remain stable or increase, creating an overall positive financial impact. Revenues of the program will continue to cover all costs associated with program delivery.

C. Weber State University – Linguistics Minor

Request: Weber State University requests the approval of an interdisciplinary minor in Linguistics, effective Fall 2008.

Need: Language pervades every aspect of human endeavor, including academic enterprises. Consequently, linguistics, as the scientific study of language, is inherently interdisciplinary. The status of linguistics as an "interdiscipline" argues strongly for offering an interdisciplinary minor, particularly at the undergraduate level at an institution like WSU.

Research into linguistics programs at other universities indicates that linguistics not only complements a student's undergraduate major but also prepares him or her for graduate study in other areas (e. g., philosophy) or professional school (e. g., law). The linguistics minor defines language broadly and from multiple perspectives—computational, psychological, and pedagogical, to name three. By doing so, it fosters collaboration across disciplinary boundaries in both teaching and research among faculty, as well as undergraduate research. Because the courses in the minor represent three colleges and eight academic