Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
Special Committee for Review of Academic Degree Programs
December 10, 2014

SUBJECT: Committee Minutes of November 13, 2014 Meeting

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Approve minutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees Special Committee for Review of Academic Degree Programs met on November 13, 2014. Minutes of the meeting were kept as statutorily required.

Supporting Documentation Included: Minutes of November 13, 2014 Meeting

Prepared by: Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Chief of Staff
Valerie Whitaker

Legal Review by: N/A

Submitted by: Vice President and Chief of Staff Susan Evans
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Special Committee for Review of Academic Degree Programs

Thursday, November 13, 2014               9 to 11 a.m.
Cohen Center, Room #213
Florida Gulf Coast University

Minutes

Committee Members:
Present: Dudley Goodlette – Chair; Trustee Shawn Felton; Trustee Ann Hamilton; Trustee Russell Priddy (via conference call); Trustee Robbie Roepstorff; and Trustee Christian Spilker.

Not Present: Trustee Rob Wells

Others:
Trustees: Trustee John Little
Staff: President Wilson Bradshaw; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Toll; Vice President and Chief of Staff Susan Evans; Vice President and General Counsel Vee Leonard; Director of Board Operations, and Special Projects Amber Pacheco; Director of Media Relations Lillian Pagan; and Executive Assistant to the Vice President and Chief of Staff Valerie Whitaker.

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Opening Remarks
Chair Goodlette called the meeting to order with a roll call at 9:04 a.m. and made opening remarks.

Item 2: Action: Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2014 (See Tab #1)
Chair Goodlette asked for a motion to approve the October 1, 2014 Special Committee for Review of Academic Degree Programs’ meeting minutes. Trustee Hamilton made the motion and Trustee Spilker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Chair Goodlette followed up with Trustee Spilker’s request from the October 2014 Committee meeting regarding information about the academic degree program review process. Trustee Spilker said he was satisfied with the information received.
Item 3: Action: Recommended Academic Degree Programs for Discontinuance (See Tab #2)

Chair Goodlette asked Dr. Toll to present Tab #2. Dr. Toll reviewed the three programs that Academic Affairs recommended to the Committee at the October 2014 meeting to remain on the suspended list and not be moved to discontinuance: (1) Ed. S. in Education, (2) M.A. in Environmental Studies, and (3) M.S.N. in Nurse Education.

Dr. Toll also suggested the recommendation of adding the M.S.N. in Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (PHCNP) to remain on the suspended list and not be moved to discontinuance. Dr. Toll made this recommendation due to the Board of Governors (BOG) delaying the review for approval of the new Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. Dr. Toll explained the BOG delay does not allow for enough time to seat a Fall 2015 class of doctoral candidates and the University would not want to go a year without seating a M.S.N. in PHCNP class.

Committee discussion regarding the additional suggested recommendation to maintain the M.S.N. in PHCNP on the suspended list included the program’s length of two years; the program’s being under the Board of Governors’ category of Additional Critical Needs Area; performance-based metrics related more to First Time in College students and not graduate students; an expedited transition process from the M.S.N. in PHCNP to the DNP; background on the state requirement shifting from the M.S.N. in PHCNP to the DNP; high enrollment levels in programs considered Critical Need programs; consideration of adding a cohort to Critical Need programs and what additional needs would be required; the impacts to faculty and addition of qualified faculty; and the cost of mounting programs.

Dr. Toll referred to Dean Mitch Cordova regarding the exploration of evening classes for Critical Need programs. Dean Cordova said offering online courses allows for more degrees of freedom to students; and the number of students accommodated is related to the faculty-to-student ratio, and the number of clinical sites available. Dean Cordova also spoke to the rigor of the DNP program and that it is a part-time or full-time program. He said that the PA program is being planned as a full-time program.

Discussion regarding the initial three programs to be recommended to remain on the suspended list included the reasoning why the programs should remain on the suspended list. Dr. Toll referred to Dean Jane McHaney for the Ed. S. in Education on the suspended list. Dean McHaney said there is not a demand for the Ed. S. in Education and it was not in compliance with the number of degree hours. Dean McHaney suggested it does not need to remain on the suspended list. Dr. Toll asked about the level of rigor associated with the E.D.D. and if some students would not be interested in that level of rigor thus keeping the Ed. S. in Education on the suspended list. Dean McHaney said that with the structure of the public school system pay scale there is not a financial incentive associated with holding the Ed. S. in Education and there is little demand for the degree. Dr.
Toll agreed with Dean McHaney to recommend moving the Ed.S in Education to discontinuance.

Further discussion included background about the complexities involved in determining which programs were listed for discontinuance, including the difficulty of hiring qualified faculty for certain specialized programs.

Chair Goodlette asked for a motion to move 36 of the 39 suspended programs to discontinuance. (The Committee’s recommendation will be taken to the full FGCU Board of Trustees for final action.) The three programs to remain on the suspended list would be the M.A. in Environmental Studies, M.S.N. in Nurse Education, and M.S.N. in Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner. Trustee Felton motioned and Trustee Spilker seconded the motion. There was no public comment, and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 4: Committee Discussion about Second Phase of Review of Academic Degree Programs

Chair Goodlette opened discussion regarding the second phase of the review of academic degree programs. Discussion included how the degrees could be categorized and reviewed. Dr. Toll suggested several possible categories including low enrollment, cost to degree, program area, and job potential.

Continued discussion included the Board of Governors’ 30/20/10 equation; the Board of Governors’ direction to review programs in regard to employed graduates; FGCU Board of Trustees’ accountability and responsibilities; developing well rounded graduates; FGCU’s being a young university and having a small portfolio of academic programs; enrollment management and attrition rates; degree program capacities; estimated time frame to gather suggested data sets; estimated timelines for discontinuing degree programs; and teach-out policy.

Dr. Toll spoke to the SACS reaccreditation visit and timing, as well as the strategic plan and campus master plan timing.

Trustee Spilker asked to review all programs in each of the suggested categories, and if the data being pulled for reaccreditation could also be used for the Committee to review academic programs.

Trustee Roepstorff spoke about the FGCU Board of Trustees’ obligations and ensuring a thorough understanding of the process, data, and reports. She also asked who was training the advisors.

President Bradshaw said that FGCU graduates do get well-paying jobs, and that FGCU has been number one or two in the State University System for employed graduates. He mentioned FGCU has had lean program development due to being young. He said data cells gathered from the cyclical program review and
other information not gathered from cyclical program review can be obtained and
distributed to the Committee in a timely manner, in order for the Committee to
make informed decisions. President Bradshaw described the academic review
process as historically being fluid and dynamic with programs being added, as
well as suspended during the process. He stated FGCU has been responsive to
the academic and professional needs of the region, which has informed the
program development and suspension.

Dr. Toll noted that the annual accountability report reflects the prior academic
year's decisions, and the decision to move the recommended degree programs
to discontinuance would not be reflected until the 2015 accountability report.
However, an addendum could be sent to the BOG at any time to ensure the BOG
has the most current information. Dr. Toll referred to Dr. Cathy Duff as to how
many suspended degree programs would be listed on the 2015 accountability
report. Dr. Duff said the list is based on entire CIPs, and thus only 10 would be
listed on the accountability report. Trustee Spilker suggested an addendum be
sent to reflect the most current information after the December 2014 meeting of
the FGCU Board.

Trustees Roepstorff, Little and Felton agreed with the importance of sending an
addendum to the BOG, and the responsibilities of the Trustees to ensure
updated information is communicated to the BOG.

Dr. Toll said the total number of undergraduate CIPs is 47 with 51 programs, and
graduate CIPs is 22 with 31 programs, and that a degree program can be moved
to another CIP with an official CIP change request through the BOG.

Item 5: Old Business
There was no old business for discussion.

Item 6: New Business
There was no new business for discussion.

Item 7: Closing Remarks, and Adjournment
Chair Goodlette adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Valerie Whitaker.
Agenda Items:

A. See Tab #1
   http://www.fgcu.edu/Trustees/AgendaFile/2014/11-13-2014(Programs%20Review)/TAB_1.pdf

B. See Tab #2
   http://www.fgcu.edu/Trustees/AgendaFile/2014/11-13-2014(Programs%20Review)/TAB_2.pdf