Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
January 20, 2004

SUBJECT: New Degree Proposal: Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve new Master of Science (MS) degree in Occupational Therapy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FGCU is requesting permission to offer a MS in Occupational Therapy as described in the Executive Summary.

Supporting Documentation Included: (1) Memo from Provost, and (2) Executive Summary of Degree Program

Prepared by: Dr. Paul Snyder, Associate Vice President for Planning and Institutional Performance

Submitted by: Provost Brad Bartel
January 20, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Lee, Chair
    Academic/Student/Faculty Affairs Committee
    FGCU Board of Trustees

FROM: Brad Bartel
    Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

The current undergraduate program in occupational therapy has proven to be very successful in preparing well-trained graduates for the field of occupational therapy. All graduates have passed the national certification examination and are employed. Additionally, the Department of Occupational Therapy was awarded a $410,000 Federal grant in part specifically to develop the post-professional track planned for this new program. As the population of Southwest Florida continues to grow and the variety of settings employing occupational therapists continues to expand, there is a need for FGCU to provide continuing educational opportunities in this field. With the advent of changes to accreditation practices in occupational therapy, it is necessary for the university to transition the existing undergraduate program to the graduate level. The existing undergraduate program will phase out completely in 2006 and enrolled its last class in spring of 2003. The university-wide Graduate Affairs Team has approved the program.

Since the resources for the program are already in place, the transition should prove cost neutral and there will be minimal additional costs associated with launching the new program. For all these reasons, I recommend approval of the M.S. in Occupational Therapy program.

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FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

Executive Summary
New Program Proposal

Degree: Master of Science (MS)
Major: Occupational Therapy
Concentrations: Entry-level, Post-Professional
College: Health Professions
Division: Department of Occupational Therapy

Program Description:

Occupational therapy uses meaningful activities and tasks associated with an individual’s daily life as the method for achieving therapeutic goals, and it is increasingly being viewed as an essential means of ensuring health and well-being. This program will replace the existing baccalaureate degree in occupational therapy and will provide a continuing supply of qualified occupational therapists for the state of Florida and especially Southwest Florida. The existing undergraduate program will phase out completely in 2006 and enrolled its last class in spring of 2003.

The development of this program is in direct response to changes in accreditation requirements for entry-level practice as determined by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. It will cover content to meet accreditation requirements, which will allow graduates to sit for the national examination and become licensed to practice occupational therapy. A total of 60-62 credit hours will be required for the entry-level concentration.

In addition, a separate post-professional concentration will be offered for students who already have a baccalaureate degree in occupational therapy and are licensed/certified therapists. This part of the curriculum, its development and initial offerings, is supported by a three-year, $410,000 grant (Community-University Partners in Service to the Elderly “CUPSE”) from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration. This concentration will lead to the master’s degree with advanced preparation in practice with the elderly.
Executive Summary: Occupational Therapy

Implementation of the program is anticipated for fall 2004.

Consistency with FGCU’s Mission and Strategic Plan:

The proposed program is consistent with the university’s mission, which emphasizes high quality programs and programs responsive to the needs of the community. Quality is reflected in the success of graduates of the existing baccalaureate program on the national certification exam (100%) and in faculty scholarship and service. Responsiveness is reflected in the 100% job placement rate of program graduates. The proposed program enjoys widespread support among the local community and will help to meet a growing need for occupational therapists in the immediate region and beyond.

Need and Demand:

Need and demand for occupational therapists is strong. At the national level, the US Department of Labor projects above average growth for the foreseeable future. Dozens of inquiries about the availability of the new program are received annually at FGCU. The burgeoning number of individuals moving into the region and their age is adding additional pressure for occupational therapists particularly in non-traditional settings. There are over 100 potential employers in Lee County alone. The Florida Allied Health Education Centers Network projects about 240 new Florida job openings in the field annually through 2008 and salaries for practitioners are competitive. FGCU is the sole educational source for pursuing occupational therapy within the Southwest region of Florida.

Enrollment Projections:

Enrollment projections for the proposed program are based, for the entry-level concentration, on the experience of the existing baccalaureate program; and, for the post-professional concentration, on the need for practicing occupational therapists to pursue continuing education. The entry-level enrollment should be 18 full-time students in year one rising to 48 by year five, and post-professional enrollment should be 9 part-time students in year one rising to 18 by year five.

Resources:

The necessary resources to support the program are currently in place for the baccalaureate program and will be transitioned to support the new graduate program. Six full-time faculty will allocate at least 50% or more of their instructional effort to this program. Adjunct faculty will play a minimal role. Existing resources for library, space, and equipment should meet anticipated program needs and accreditation standards.
Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
January 20, 2004

SUBJECT: New Degree Proposal: Master of Science in Geriatric Recreational Therapy

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve new Master of Science (MS) degree in Geriatric Recreational Therapy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FGCU is requesting permission to offer a MS in Geriatric Recreational Therapy as described in the Executive Summary.

Supporting Documentation Included: (1) Memo from Provost, and (2) Executive Summary of Degree Program

Prepared by: Dr. Paul Snyder, Associate Vice President for Planning and Institutional Performance

Submitted by: Provost Brad Bartel
January 20, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Renee Lee, Chair
    Academic/Student/Faculty Affairs Committee
    FGCU Board of Trustees

FROM: Brad Bartel
    Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Master of Science in Geriatric Recreational Therapy

As people age, frequently they are confronted by an array of physical, mental, and emotional problems. Increasingly, such individuals are finding relief and therapeutic benefit from specially devised recreational activities designed to improve physical, cognitive, and psychosocial function. This is the growing field of geriatric recreational therapy. The program being proposed will prepare students to work with older adults in a variety of healthcare settings: assisted living centers, adult daycare programs, rehabilitation hospitals, nursing homes, and community health organizations. The program's development has been supported through a $410K Federal grant intended in part to facilitate creation of an innovative approach to this challenge. The proposed 42-credit hour master's program directly responds to this challenge, and will prepare graduates who are certified therapeutic recreation specialists with advanced geriatric knowledge. It is an eclectic blend of coursework from existing FGCU programs and will be delivered totally online. The university-wide Graduate Affairs Team has approved the program.

Since the program utilizes existing courses and will be delivered totally online, there will be minimal additional resources necessary for the program initially. As enrollments grow over time, additional full-time faculty may be required. The curriculum is unique, the delivery method innovative, and the program is responsive to growing regional and national needs. For all these reasons, I recommend approval of the M.S. in Geriatric Recreational Therapy program.

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FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

Executive Summary
New Program Proposal

Degree: Master of Science (MS)
Major: Geriatric Recreational Therapy
College: Health Professions
Division: Health Sciences

Program Description:

The proposed Geriatric Recreational Therapy master’s program will be the first of its kind in the state of Florida and in the nation. It builds on state of the art practice techniques, research skills, and clinical expertise of the faculty in gerontology and recreational therapy currently working at FGCU and creates a unique and timely offering with the new federal regulations for Medicare that include recreational therapy as a reimbursable option for the first time ever in the long-term care arena.

The 42 semester-hour master's program in Geriatric Recreational Therapy is designed for individuals with the certified therapeutic recreation specialist (CTRS) credential, who want to advance their knowledge and understanding of gerontology, geriatric practice, and recreational therapy as a part of health care and human services for older adults, but may not be able to come to a university setting for such training. The curriculum follows a conceptual model of health promotion and rehabilitation in which graduate students have an opportunity to understand the recreational therapist’s role and potential contribution to health care delivery systems that have expanded beyond a primarily medical-model orientation to include health promotion and wellness models of service delivery for elders.

This program includes the following: a common program core from Health Sciences; a required concentration core of four courses in gerontology and two advance practice courses in Geriatric Recreational Therapy; and either a capstone project, advanced clinical internship, or a thesis. All courses have already been approved through the department, college, and university level curriculum committees at FGCU, and the entire program will be available on the Internet via distance learning. This will allow students from around the state and the nation to take part in the program without traveling or leaving current positions. All currently certified therapeutic recreation specialists need continuing education
Executive Summary: Geriatric Recreational Therapy

credits to maintain their national certification. This program provides therapists with an opportunity to earn credits toward a master’s degree at the same time. This project has three years of federal funding to support the degree implementation.

With the combination of these factors, it is anticipated that demand for this new program will be high, and the reputation of FGCU as a national leader will quickly emerge.

Implementation of the program is anticipated for fall 2004.

Consistency with FGCU’s Mission and Strategic Plan:

The primary goal of this program is to provide advanced gerontology and geriatric training to certified therapeutic recreation specialists to meet the needs of older adults in Southwest Florida, the state of Florida, and the nation. It is also anticipated this program will have an international audience since it is the first of its kind. This goal advances realization of FGCU’s vision to seek national prominence in selected graduate programs of excellence. Indeed, the faculty responsible for developing this proposal were the recipients of significant Federal grant support to establish such a unique program.

Need and Demand:

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2002-2003 employment of recreational therapists is expected to increase rapidly as demand grows for physical and psychiatric rehabilitative services and for services for people with disabilities.

Since the population is aging and living longer with more chronic conditions, more individuals will need skilled therapy to stay active and maintain their health. With each passing year, America's aging population increasingly seeks out such professional care. Their swelling ranks have created a growing demand for therapists of all specialties to treat the physical and mental ailments of older consumers, particularly those approaching their frail years. Opportunities should generally be good for persons with a master's degree in geriatric recreational therapy across the nation, but especially in Florida. A recent survey of 26 regional healthcare facilities indicated that 61% would be interested in hiring a Geriatric Recreational Therapist within the next year.

Over the past 10 months over 100 email and phone contacts from around the state and country were received at Florida Gulf Coast University inquiring about the proposed recreational therapy distance-learning program.
Executive Summary: Geriatric Recreational Therapy

**Enrollment Projections:**

The program is expected to enroll about 16 students in the first year (6 FT - 10 PT) rising to 77 students (35 FT – 42 PT) by year five. The projections are based on current student interest in the health sciences and expected demand based on inquiries received.

**Resources:**

Since the proposed program relies upon existing coursework, the additional resources necessary to offer it are modest. Three existing full-time faculty will be associated with the program and will be augmented by other full-time faculty teaching within the College of Health Professions. Modest resources will be needed to enhance existing library holdings in this area. In subsequent years, as enrollment growth warrants, the program may require additional full-time faculty support and modest funds for continuing library improvements.
Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
January 20, 2004

SUBJECT: 2004 Legislative Priorities

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve FGCU's Legislative Priorities for the 2004 session of the Florida Legislature.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year FGCU prepares a list of requested items for submission to the local legislative delegations of Southwest Florida, and the leadership of the Florida Senate and House.

Supporting Documentation Included: Florida Gulf Coast University 2004 Legislative Priorities

Prepared by: Assistant to the President for Government Relations Tom Healy

Submitted by: President Bill Merwin
Florida Gulf Coast University

2004 Legislative Priorities

I. Enrollment Growth Funding

- 800 FTE $7,052,951

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) is experiencing rapid enrollment growth having increased its full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment from 1,946 FTE in 2000-01 to 2,964 FTE in 2002-03. The percentage of increase in FTE over the past two years was 23% and 24%. FGCU's projected enrollment for 2003-04 is 3,339 FTE or an increase of 13%.

When adjusted for the most recent budget cuts, FGCU is currently funded at 2,641 FTE or 698 less than the 2003-04 projected enrollment.

The Legislative Budget Request for fiscal year 2004-05, submitted by the Florida Board of Governors and the Florida Board of Education, includes a request to fund FGCU at 3,764 FTE, which would generate an additional $7,052,951 for enrollment growth. While this budget would result in FGCU having slightly more than 300 unfunded FTE, it is recognized that the State of Florida is in a period of fiscal downturn. Hence, Florida Gulf Coast University supports the Legislative Budget Request as submitted by the Board of Governors.

II. Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Funding

The significant enrollment increases experienced over the last three years have caused a critical shortage of classrooms and office space for new faculty on the campus. With an unusually high growth rate projected for the next decade and beyond, the need to construct new buildings on the campus is on going. FGCU’s PECO request for the 2004 Session of the Florida Legislature follows:

- Academic VI Classroom Building $687,000 (Planning)
- Roads, Parking and/or Mitigation $5,000,000

Originally, the State University System was projected to have $80 million available in PECO funds. Sixteen million dollars was allocated for repair and renovation and $64 million for all individual PECO projects. The most recent PECO Revenue Estimating Conference projected $192 million in additional revenue. However, the distribution of these funds is as yet undetermined. FGCU urges the Legislature to use the normal distribution percentages for these additional PECO funds and supplement the PECO budget, if necessary, with non-recurring general revenue to fully fund the one-year State University System list.
III. **Courtelis State University System Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program**

The resort and hospitality industry in Lee and Collier counties accounts for 40% of the local economy, a figure near $2 billion, yet no programs to train middle and upper level managers exist in our service area.

Area resorts and hotels must now recruit all of their middle and upper level management personnel from programs elsewhere in Florida and around the nation. At the request of industry leaders in Southwest Florida, the FGCU Board of Trustees approved a bachelor’s degree in Resort and Hospitality Management, which enrolled its first students this fall semester.

Thanks to a $5 million gift from Herbert and Margaret Sugden, FGCU is requesting $4.2 million in state matching dollars to fund a state-of-the-art facility to house the Resort and Hospitality Management programs. The additional $800,000 is being used for start-up costs. This project was not funded for 2003-04 even though the donation was received in December 2002.

In addition, $2,500,000 has been received from several individuals to construct a laboratory and classroom building for the study of native medicinal use of plants and plant biotechnology.

- Resort and Hospitality Management Classroom Building $ 4,200,000
- Botanical Garden Laboratory and Classroom Building $ 2,500,000

IV. **Bonding Authority for Student Housing and Parking**

Over the brief six-year history of FGCU, on-campus student housing has been filled to capacity. Additional units have not adequately met student demand and waiting lists of 100 to 200 have been the norm.

The updated FGCU Master Plan recommended building more vertical structures in order to conserve scarce buildable land on campus. Hence, Florida Gulf Coast University requests authorization to construct the following projects financed from revenue bonds:

- Phase VII of FGCU Student Housing (600 Beds and 500 Car Parking Garage) $25,000,000
- Parking Garage for Main Campus (500 Spaces) $ 6,000,000

In addition, FGCU expects to receive a donation of acreage in a new research and office park development near campus. The featured building in this complex will house
FGCU’s research facilities and the Small Business Center’s offices and incubation center. FGCU requests authorization to construct this building financed from revenue bonds.

- FGCU Research and Small Business Development Center $ 5,000,000

V. **Naming of University Buildings**

Thanks to the generosity of two Southwest Florida families, FGCU is requesting legislation to name the Kleist Health Education Center in honor of Dr. Peter D. and Eleanor A. Kleist and Sugden Hall (Resort and Hospitality Management Building) in honor of Herbert J. and Margaret S. Sugden.

VI. **Authorize University Boards of Trustees to Name all Buildings on State University Campuses**

Florida Statute 267.062 requires legislative approval to name a state building after a living person(s). Florida community colleges have been authorized to name the buildings on their campuses for many years, a process which has worked well. The state universities urge the Florida Legislature to authorize University Boards of Trustees to name the buildings on their respective campuses.

VII. **Raise the Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) Fee for State Universities**

CITF funds are bonded and used to construct buildings on campuses that are primarily used to support student-related activities such as student unions, computer and/or study labs and recreational facilities. Currently, the universities assess a per-credit-hour fee of $4.76. These fees have not been raised for 15 years while the need for student facilities has dramatically increased. Hence, FGCU supports raising the CITF fee for universities to $6.76 per credit hour with $1.00 of the increase being mandatory, the other $1.00 discretionary.

VIII. **Tuition and Fee Issues**

Currently, the state universities set tuition in accordance with authority granted by the Legislature in the General Appropriations Act, and all authorized fees are specified and capped in Florida Statutes. The Legislature’s ability or willingness to allow increases in tuition and fees is tempered by the resulting impact on programs such as Bright Futures, Florida College Prepaid and need-based financial aid. However, with decreasing state support and increasing demands for quality services and programs, tuition/fee and
financial aid policies must be reformed to grant more flexible authority for universities to set tuition and fee levels on their campuses.

FGCU requests the 2004 Legislature to:

- Significantly revise the current aggregate cap and increase limitation on the Activity & Service, Health, and Athletic Fees.

- Authorize the state university boards of trustees to establish tuition policies such as block fees, differential tuition by program, and tuition incentives for night/weekend courses.

Florida Gulf Coast University
As of December 18, 2003