SUBJECT: New Program Major: Criminal Justice-Compliance

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve a new program major, Criminal Justice-Compliance, at the master’s level under CIP 43.0104 (Criminal Justice Studies).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On March 29, 2007, the Florida Board of Governors approved Regulation 6C-8.011 Academic Program Authorization. On June 19, 2007, the FGCU Board of Trustees approved Policy 2.42 Academic Program Authorization. The BOG regulation and the FGCU policy include definitions and processes for approving degree programs and program majors.

A degree program is an organized curriculum that is recognized as an academic discipline by the higher education community, as demonstrated by the assignment of a Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code by the National Center for Educational Statistics, or as demonstrated by similar programs existing at other colleges and universities, and having designated faculty and instructional resources. Approved degree programs are listed on the SUS Academic Degree Program Inventory.

A program major is an organized curriculum in an area of study that is part of an existing or proposed degree program and does not constitute sufficient distinct coursework, faculty, and instructional resources to be considered a separate degree program. A program major shares common core or prerequisite courses with the degree program under which it is offered and other majors within the same degree. Program majors are not assigned CIP codes and are not included in the SUS Academic Degree Program Inventory. Students enrolled in a program major are reported under the CIP code of the degree program under which the major is offered.
FGCU is requesting permission to offer a new master’s level program major in Criminal Justice-Compliance as described in the Executive Summary. This major is associated with the existing degree program of Master of Science in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0104).

Supporting Documentation Included: (1) Executive Summary

Prepared by: Interim Associate Vice President for Curriculum and Instruction Cathy Duff

Legal Review by: General Counsel Vee Leonard (June 3, 2008)

Submitted by: Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Peg Gray-Vickrey
Florida Gulf Coast University

New Program Major Proposal
Executive Summary
May 30, 2008

Degree: Master of Science (M.S.)
Program Major: Criminal Justice-Compliance
Concentrations: None
College: Professional Studies
Department: Justice Studies
Anticipated Implementation Date: Fall 2008
Suggested CIP: 43.0104 (Criminal Justice Studies)

Program Description

FGCU currently offers the degree program Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice under CIP 43.0104 (Criminal Justice Studies). The proposed program major in Criminal Justice-Compliance will be offered under the same CIP. The curriculum for the proposed Criminal Justice-Compliance major consists of 42 semester credit hours including (a) 27 semester credit hours of core coursework taken by students in both the Criminal Justice degree program and the proposed Criminal Justice-Compliance major, and (b) 15 semester credit hours of coursework specific to the field of compliance. Course assignments will provide students with opportunities to develop compliance-related evaluations and action plans.

The proposed major in Criminal Justice-Compliance will prepare students to work as compliance officers in the private and/or public sector. The criminal justice emphasis of the program exposes students to administration and management, and the compliance emphasis prepares students to function independently and objectively as they review and evaluate compliance issues/concerns within an organization. The program has been developed with a curriculum that assists students in acquiring the skill sets needed to be effective in monitoring and reporting results of the compliance/ethics efforts of an organization. The program also provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to provide guidance to management on matters relating to compliance.

The curriculum has been approved by both the college curriculum team and the university-wide Graduate Curriculum Team. The proposed major is consistent with the criteria for new academic program authorization adopted by the Florida Board of Governors on March 29, 2007.

Consistency with FGCU’s Mission and Strategic Plan

The Criminal Justice-Compliance major flows naturally from the College of Professional Studies’ mission, which emphasizes providing curricula oriented toward professional and personal development, and the integration of theory and practice. In addition, the program, which is unique to Florida as well as most
of the United States, supports the University’s vision of being an institution with expanded recognition of having select graduate programs that meet the need of the immediate region. Finally, the program is consistent with FGCU’s strategic plan which emphasizes the development of innovative academic programs that attract the best students and faculty.

Need and Demand

As a response to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, there has been a major push by both public and private organizations to adopt and periodically review the effectiveness of their internal control systems. The results of the act have now forced agencies to adopt written procedures that are reasonably designed to achieve compliance throughout the total operation(s) of the given organization. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act has been far reaching as it has had an impact on all industries, including financial, medical, and legal entities. The increased push for self-regulation has led to a drastic shortage of prepared compliance officers throughout the United States. With such a short fall, it is ideal to have a master’s level program that would prepare students to fill the void that has been caused by the recent demand of improved organizational oversight. New legislation and substantial jury verdicts resulting from lawsuits will continue to demand accountability of both private and public entities thus making the proposed program needed and viable.

Enrollment

There are currently nine students enrolled in the Compliance Specialist Certificate program. These students have expressed an interest in pursuing a master’s degree. In addition to the nine students who are currently enrolled, an additional seven are expected to begin taking the compliance coursework in fall of 2008. It is expected that 25-30 students will be enrolled in the M.S. degree program with a major Criminal Justice-Compliance program by 2011.

Resources

No additional resources are needed to implement the Criminal Justice-Compliance major. The cost of utilizing adjuncts and/or consultants has been calculated in the cost. No additional resources have been requested in order to operate and manage the program.