

MINUTES

Interim Steering Committee Meeting
Homeland Security Masters Program
Donald L. Houston Conference Room
November 6, 2007

- I. Discussion of HSDECA report: *The Homeland Security Academic Environment*. Rollins, J. and Rowan, J. 2007.

Dr. McIntyre reviewed a new report on HLS programs nationwide. The general conclusion was that student interest is strong and many schools are building programs, but quality interdisciplinary programs are few. TAMU can quickly become a national leader in this regard. See link at <http://www.hsdec.org/downloads/springsym07/Rollins2.pdf>

- II. Review and comment on draft documents

Discussion:

- DHS is very interested in programs that connect to Minority Serving Institutions. We need to look for ways to connect to MSIs.
- There may be money to fund students through OGS in the Pathways program.
- As we develop the University HLS Faculty, consider the System Graduate Faculty as well.
- Should the Faculty be called “Interdisciplinary” or “Intercollegiate”? Given that several colleges are involved, “Intercollegiate” may be the better title.
- How should membership categories be structured? We must be sure that qualified professionals who are not on the research faculty are not excluded. J. Kantz will research university requirements for membership on the graduate faculty and revise the membership section of the bylaws. (done)
- Dr. Dick Chilcoat, Dean of the Bush School, will be the lead dean of the COPD. Funding issues to be addressed after the Intercollegiate Faculty is established. VPR usually helps with interdisciplinary and intercollegiate programs as well.
- We should add a committee for outreach and recruiting to the standing committees. (done)
- We need a strong point person to keep things moving. This could be someone appointed by the Dean of the Bush School. The director of ICHS could be this person, but should be in a stronger position than Secretary of the Executive Committee. ICHS has the infrastructure for continuity and can lead the initiative and keep it moving forward.
- The program needs a physical presence...office and staff. Where will students go for answers to questions about the program? It needs an intercollegiate location with a coordinator. ICHS will do this for now.
- One example to look at might be the Doctor of Engineering. It is run out of the dean’s office, has separate courses and numbers from other engineering courses, is across the college and a student’s chair must be on the graduate faculty and in a participating department.
- The program needs strong inferential and descriptive statistics courses with a homeland security focus.

- What is the incentive for faculty to design a course for homeland security? There will probably be no separate incentive. But courses taught as part of the HLS masters will be departmental courses and count toward departmental requirements.
- Should we identify what exists and cross list it? No one gains or loses by cross listing because it is the instructor of record's department that gets the credit. Courses that exist already, but are cross listed, may not have a strong enough homeland security focus.

III. Action items

- A. J. Kantz will research university requirements for membership on the graduate faculty and revise the membership section of the bylaws.
- B. Timeline for Bylaws revisions
 - i. Attendees reviewed draft bylaws (done)
 - ii. J. Kantz will revise and circulate to all for comment by **11/9/07**
 - iii. ISC will be asked to provide comments/recommendations by **11/16/07**
 - iv. Final revisions will be distributed by **11/27/07**
 - v. ISC will be asked to vote up or down on Bylaws version 1.0 by **11/30/07**. Goal is to have Bylaws 1.0 in place for the December meeting. If the ISC votes "down" then we will take another turn on the by-laws in December.

IV. For December meeting:

- A. Tentative meeting date of December 3rd (Mon) @ 7:30 am.
- B. Subject will be proposed cores courses and possible departmental electives.