

Minutes
Interim Steering Committee
Intercollegiate Faculty of Homeland Security

Donald L. Houston Building, Room 106
February 19, 2008
7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Chair: David McIntyre

Members in Attendance: Garry Adams, Nehemiah Geva, Jeannine Kantz, Xenophon Koufteros, Karen Kubena, Don Phillips, Webster West

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- I. Call to order.....7:30 a.m.
 - II. Old business
 - III. New business
 - A. Survey results
 - i. Which Colleges Should be included?
 - a. Dr. Kantz began discussion by noting that amongst survey respondents, there was generally an agreement that the Bush School of Government and Public Service and the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Science, Veterinary Medicine, and Engineering should be included as part of the COPD. There were several suggestions as to additional colleges that should be included in the COPD, including the college of Geosciences, the School of Rural and Public Health, and the Mays Business School.
 - b. The question was then raised by Dr. Geva as the advantage and disadvantage of including colleges in the COPD. Dr. McIntyre noted that the main advantage for colleges to be included is that there is an increase in visibility for colleges that participate, and it allows for easier collaborations across disciplines for the students. The only downside is that colleges will be required to pay a portion of administrative costs. Dr. Adams concurred, stating that being a part of an interdisciplinary degree program can provide advantages in terms of student recruiting as students can have a greater level of flexibility and breadth of classes they can take, and what direction they can take their studies.
 - c. Dr Koufteros noted that if colleges are going to receive the benefits of being involved in the COPD, there must be a fair level of student interest in the program. He then raised the question of what level of student interest existed, and how many individuals could be anticipated to join the program. Dr. McIntyre stated that he anticipated 20-30 students in residence and potentially up to 100 students in the program including those taking the program online. Dr Kantz noted that they received

approximately 70 calls last semester about the program and several inquiries for a PhD program.

- d. Dr. Phillips asked if all colleges had, or could be approached about joining the COPD? Dr. McIntyre responded that all colleges would have the opportunity to join.
 - ii. What constitutes “core curriculum”? While the results of the survey were generally in favor of the courses listed, there was some disagreement about which methods courses should be part of the “core”, and how many classes should be part of the “core.”

Discussion of Curriculum

- a. Discussion began with Dr. McIntyre noting that if we want to set ourselves apart from other programs, this Masters program must be methodologically rigorous. But the question remains, should these methodology courses be part of the “core.” Dr. Koufteros recommended creating a mixed methodology course to be part of the core, and allowing other methodology courses to be taken as electives. Dr. Geva disagreed, claiming that if the program is to maintain a high level of sophistication, there needs to be at least two quantitative courses in the core. Dr. Phillips agreed that quantitative methods courses should be included and noted that while other departments could teach statistics or quantitative methods courses, the program must ensure that those courses are taught with the Homeland Security Masters program in mind. While others noted that students may be hesitant to take two quantitative or statistics courses, the general agreement was that this emphasis on methodology could help set this Homeland Security program apart.
- b. Summary of courses in survey
 - One 3 hr Homeland Security Context and Overview course--Bush School
 - One 3 hr Survey of Science, Engineering and Technology for Homeland Security.
 - i. Perhaps team taught
 - ii. Familiarize students with hard science and engineering issues and approaches to homeland security
 - iii. Allow students the opportunity to increase the depth of their studies by choosing other appropriate electives in STEM topics.
 - Two (2) 3 hr quantitative classes (focused on homeland security) to both provide essential information, and ensure the desired intellectual rigor.
 - One 3 hr qualitative research class (focused on homeland security).
- c. Dr. Geva then asked what would happen once the core courses were defined. Would students get minors, majors, specializations, or concentrations? Dr. Phillips stated that there would be a great opportunity for students to interact with the Masters program and other departments, so that a student could do their core course work in another department, take their electives through the Homeland Security program, and receive an MS in Engineering with a concentration in Homeland Security. Dr.

McIntyre agreed with this idea, claiming that it could obviously work the other way, with a student receiving a MS in the Homeland Security program with an emphasis in another area.

- d. Dr. Kubena commented that this program must be more than a credential and more than a generalized Masters. It must provide students with a depth of understanding that allows them to get to the heart of Homeland Security Matters. Dr. McIntyre responded that the courses that have already been designed have clearly stated objectives throughout. This process will be repeated for additional courses. There will not be a problem with our final product in this regard. Dr. Kantz added that at this stage of the proposal, the specifics of the courses have yet to be determined and are not required to form the interdisciplinary faculty group.
 - e. Dr. McIntyre will draft example syllabi for two courses based on the current fundamentals course he teaches. It has grown to include too many topics for one class and could be restructured into two classes. He will prepare that draft for the next ISC meeting. This will add one more HLS class to the core.
 - f. Dr. Koufteros presented the idea that students should be able to go into the field and receive hands on experience as part of the program. Also, program must be sure to include and recruit international students. Both suggestions were agreed upon by several members.
- B. Draft budget
- i. Dr. Kantz noted that this budget is just an example based on the Genetics and BioTech programs to allow for an understanding of general administrative and start-up costs. Dr. McIntyre furthered this point, stating that when we go to the University for funding we need to have an idea of costs, and this budget is simply a starting point for discussion.
 - ii. Dr. Phillips commented on the need for Research Assistants or Student Workers. He recommended up to 8 graduate assistants. Dr. Phillips also noted that all of these assistants need not be funded through Texas A&M, as private companies can be found to provide funding for graduate assistants. He also recommended adding 2 student workers.
 - iii. The meeting then moved to a discussion of maintenance of the website, advertisement, and recruitment. Dr. McIntyre suggested that the majority of this work can be done through the Bush School until the program is actually up and running. Eventually staff will have to be added to take care of placement and recruiting. Dr. Phillips suggested that the cost should be included in the budget and that ICSH should not be expected to provide all that admin support.

IV. Action Items

- A. Approach the Deans and ask them about joining the COPD. —ICHS
- B. Begin circulating the proposal for the Interdisciplinary Faculty of Homeland Security.—Dr. Kantz

- C. Collect and bring to the next meeting the course syllabi from the Homeland Security Certificate Program, so it can be compared to ideas about Master's program. -Dr. McIntyre.
- D. For next meeting, bring one page outlines of the two proposed fundamentals courses, expanded from the current single course—Dr. McIntyre
- E. Create a more comprehensive list of HLS classes at A&M, including required prerequisites and syllabi. – Aaron, and ISC members
- F. Inquire with A&M about financial support, and bring the results of these inquiries to a future meeting. –Dr. McIntyre

Adjourn.....9:00 a.m.