

Minutes
Interim Steering Committee
Intercollegiate Faculty of Homeland Security

Donald L. Houston Building, Room 124

January 18, 2008

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Chair: David McIntyre

Members present: Garry Adams, Guy Almes, Fuller Bazer, Sharon Caudle, Nehemiah Geva, Jeannine Kantz, Don Phillips, Webster West

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- I. Call to order.....7:30 a.m.
 - II. Approval of minutes for December 3, 2008
 - III. Business
 - A. Gathering of Eagles review
 - i. ICHS Fellows are nationally recognized experts, many of whom teach in the certificate program at the Bush School.
 - ii. On 11-12 Jan 08 VPR and the Bush School combined funding to bring them to CS for discussions. Participants numbered about 25, including on line faculty, participants from TAMU in College Station, and visitors who might do business with us in this regard in the future
 - a. Professors spent the morning updating all on homeland security developments in their respective fields.
 - b. ICHS provided an update on the many ways technology is being integrated into teaching homeland security (mediamatrix, 450 radio interviews, iPod downloads, new delivery with iPhone, etc.)
 - c. Dr Hermann and Dr McIntyre led an extended session on grading standards and a grading exercise.
 - d. An outside agency (Exxon-Mobile) paid for a group supper.
 - e. Some members of the resident committee preparing the masters degree joined the on line faculty for Saturday breakfast and discussions.
 - f. Several on line students from across Texas joined the Fellows for an extended discussion of learning and teaching on line.
 - iii. Three items of special note for the MS program came out of this meeting.
 - a. The on line homeland security program has blazed a trail for the resident program. It now has 12 courses, 150 students, and is growing rapidly.

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- b. As soon as the resident cores courses are ready, TAMU can incorporate the classes from the certificate program on line and have enough courses for a masters degree program in short order.
 - c. BUT there is a significant difference between the program we are teaching on line and the program we are considering in residence. We will need an ISC meeting sometime in late spring to discuss the issue of offering the new masters degree in homeland security on line.
- B. VPR Update
 - i. Reviewed briefly slides in presentation D. McIntyre will give to J. Calvin on 1/22 ref Interdisciplinary Programs at TAMU
- C. Bylaws
 - i. Copy of completed version provided to everyone. Will be give to J. Calvin at meeting on 1/22
- D. Curriculum (Core Courses)
 - i. Importance
 - a. Identifying a draft set of core courses required for the MS degree will clarify a number of issues that must be resolved before we can take the next steps in program development.
 - b. Student interest is diverse. Some traditional undergrads seeking advanced degrees. Some grad students seeking a PhD wish to add special expertise in homeland security. Some working professionals seek advancement and career change with a terminal master's degree. No doubt this MS program will serve all these student audiences – but it cannot be all things to all people. The core will help focus the target audiences and the program objectives.
 - c. Almost every department at TAMU will have something useful to contribute to this interdisciplinary program and intercollegiate faculty. But the core will help determine which Deans will need to step up to provide basic funding for essential classes.
 - ii. Summary of Overall Discussion Points:
 - a. Many existing courses should be adaptable to the MS program as electives. (Example: Dept of Engineering has at least 15 HLS related courses.) Putting together existing courses, with a few new core courses would get the program up and running quickly. Also, Deans may buy in more readily if existing courses can be adapted to the program.
 - b. Some applicable HLS courses have prerequisites that would eliminate many students. In such cases, students could take an interdisciplinary core, matched with these electives focused in a

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- single discipline. (Examples might include engineering, CVM, etc.)
- c. Statistics courses are important to the core if the program is to make a serious contribution to the emerging field of homeland security. And numerous departments offer statistics courses now. But many programs need to be strengthened in nonparametric statistics. Often students end up calculating formulas, but are not good at displaying and explaining data after its collected and analyzed. Quantitative methods taught in context can be more conducive to learning. Students would benefit from learning more about data collection, not just analysis. The statistics department is addressing this in many of their classes.
 - (Note: A master's student in the Statistics Department is working on a project this semester to take a first semester basic semester course and put every example problem into a homeland security context.)
 - d. For TAMU to lead the nation in this interdisciplinary field, the MS program needs commitment from the highest levels of the university to support funding for long term faculty participation. ISC should request commitment of 6 core faculty for this program. Unlike other IDP degrees, homeland security has no disciplinary foundation or undergraduate "feeder" program. So unless the University leadership provides initial support and continuing interest, the MS Homeland Security program is unlikely to gain the traction required in funding and faculty commitment required to make it a national leader.
 - e. Admitting students into a new MS degree program in Fall 2008 is probably not possible. Admitting students requires approval of the proposal by the Board of Regents (next available target meeting in July, 2008), and after that the THECB (next target meeting after the Regents meeting is October 2008). So a class start date of Jan 2009 for students enrolled in a MS program in Homeland Security is probably the earliest possible date.
 - f. HOWEVER, as soon as the Regents approve the proposal, the Interdisciplinary Faculty could approve which courses will be accepted for cross listing and application to the degree as an elective. Students could begin taking those courses in Fall 2008 and apply the credits to the MS program when it starts in Spring 2009.
 - g. Tap existing courses for electives where possible. Will need to survey university wide to create inventory of classes. Existing classes across the university that would be accepted as electives in the new program can be identified now. Students in existing masters degrees (ex: Master of biomedical science) can

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develop HLS emphasis immediately in their programs by taking those classes.

h. Subsequent decision concerning “double counting” classes will be required.

iii. Summary of Discussion on Core Issues:

- Quantitative research class and overarching policy class should both be part of core. Two quantitative classes will probably be required to both provide essential information, and grant the program the desired legitimacy.
- Qualitative methods class taught in HLS context should be required as well.
- Issues in science, technology and engineering could be separate classes which would create a large core, or could be combined into a single survey course (“Issues in Science, Technology and Engineering”) that would allow students more electives and the opportunity to increase the depth of their studies by choosing appropriate electives in STEM topics.
- Members of the ISC present at the meeting leaned toward the second solution (a single integrated core course in “Issues in Science, Technology and Engineering”).

IV, Action items

- A. Summarize discussion and recommendations and return to group via minutes—J. Kantz
- B. Summary of discussion will be included in VPR update—D. McIntyre
- C. Consensus at the meeting concerning Core Courses will be circulated to all ISC members for review—J. Kantz.
- D. Ideas for which Deans should be approached as “participating deans” will be collected; ICCHS will approach those deans before the next ISC meeting.
- E. ISC desire for top level university leadership support to provide 6 full time positions for HLS faculty will be forwarded for action—Kantz and McIntyre.
- F. ICCHS will attempt University survey of courses that might count as electives toward the MS in Homeland Security (target date 1 April) – Kantz and McIntyre.
- G. Next meeting: tentatively set for 19 Feb 2008. Subject: Developing the Intercollegiate Faculty and a Degree Proposal.

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