APC Update on outstanding proposals - 2/23/2012

Chair: Richard Bogartz (Psychology)

**Joint M.S./J.D. in Labor Studies and Law (Minutes of December 7, 2010)**

The Council reviewed the revision of the combined graduate degrees of Juris Doctor and Master of Science in Labor Studies Program with Western New England School of Law. It was noted that greater clarity is needed throughout the proposal so that students will understand the courses required of them if they pursue the program. Council members had difficulty discerning the number of credits required, given inconsistencies in the proposal. Students need to be given specific information on courses and their respective credits as well. Issues that should be addressed in the proposal include:

a. Course numbers and credits need to be displayed consistently throughout the proposal. The law school courses are listed by name only in the program and these listings need to include course numbers and credits.
b. The number of credits needed to complete the program needs to be clarified. On p. 4, the first paragraph (last sentence) implies that students will take 130 credits. On p. 6, it looks like 106 credits are needed and on p. 9, it appears that 109 credits are needed. The sample course at the end appears to require 109 credits.
c. The proposal needs to be clear and transparent to Faculty Senate Councils that need to review it and to students (since this is a contract with them). It is recommended that a curricular table be added that shows the courses and credits required for the individual degrees and the required courses and credits required for the “joint” degree.
d. It should be clear that Labor Studies will be guaranteeing that the required courses will be taught every year.
e. Clarification should be provided on the University policy under which the program would be approved. This is actually a Dual Master’s Degree, not a “joint” degree or a “combined” degree, terms used in the proposal.
f. The advising process for students seeking to understand the course of study should be described.

Upon receiving a revision of the proposal, Council members can consider it for approval.

**Graduate Certificate in Labor Studies**

The Council reviewed a Proposal for a Graduate Program in Labor Studies. Several questions and issues were raised by the Council including:
g. On p. 2, a tentative agreement with the International Association of Machinists was mentioned. What is the agreement? A commitment letter is needed for collaboration.

h. The courses in List A and List B need a department designation and course numbers.

i. The specific requirements of the program need to be stated up front. Currently the proposal states that “students must take 15 credits of approved graduate courses” and “Graduate students currently matriculated in other programs at UMass would be allowed to substitute up to 6 credits from other Departments in place of these elective courses, with approval...” What are the approved graduate courses? For a degree in Labor Studies, the courses for the degree should seemingly be in Labor Studies. Given that department and course numbers are absent, it is not clear that the required courses in List A are all in Labor Studies.

j. The language in the “Transfer of Credits” section is confusing and some of this information seems redundant.

The Council is requesting a revision of the proposal that addresses the issues raised.

Five College Ethnomusicology Certificate Program

Neither Kathy Debevec, the Council Secretary, nor I can find anything bearing on this certificate program.

Change to the Masters of Regional Planning

The Council reviewed the revisions of proposed dual degree programs for Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)/Master of Architecture (MArch) and Master of Regional Planning (MRP)/Master of Architecture (MArch) and voted to approve the two proposals. The programs in the dual degrees are complementary to one another and allow students with a previous degree or preparatory work in one of the disciplines to master the core knowledge and skills in both areas in three years or less instead of the four years that would be necessary otherwise. The programs both provide students with a technical foundation and skills training in the disciplines and require a combined thesis which integrates the areas. There appears to be demand and both pedagogical and professional support for both programs.

Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Management at Isenberg

Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Leadership A proposal from the Isenberg School of Management for a Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management was reviewed. Concerns were expressed that some components of the proposal are not in alignment with the criteria established for Centers as described on the Faculty Senate website. A Center is defined as follows:

“Centers and Institutes are organizational units on the Amherst campus created to implement academic and training programs, clinical or community service, or research activities that cannot ordinarily be accommodated within existing department structures. Centers and Institutes cannot award degrees or
The current proposal describes the Center as developing “academic and experiential programs, including: Repackaging existing entrepreneurship courses with the goal of creating a minor in Entrepreneurship for students...Developing additional courses to round-out the range of topics necessary for a full complement of entrepreneurship and innovation education.” The proposal goes on to describe courses developed in Isenberg, BDIC, UWW, and Continuing Education focused on entrepreneurship which are dispersed throughout campus and indicates that “CEIM will create the aforementioned academic and non-academic programs, considering new opportunities as the program evolves, and assist in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation management campus-wide.”

The guidelines restrict Centers from offering courses for University credit. Centers tend to be research focused while this Center seems more like an academic unit offering educational programs. There is a need to justify this new entity and why a Center is being proposed rather than an educational program. Bryan Harvey will consult with the proposer in Isenberg to sort out what is needed for the proposed Center to be consistent with University guidelines.

**University of Massachusetts Innovation Institute (UMII)** The Council reviewed a proposal for the UMass Innovation Institute which received interim approval from Vice Chancellor Michael Malone. The APC supports the proposal for the UMASS Innovation Institute. It does not believe that there is an inherent conflict between the University and corporate sponsors of the research; however, as the Institute evolves, it is critical that appropriate policies be put in place which are consistent with the academic values of the University and respect academic freedom. The Council recommends that a joint task force composed of members of the Administration and Faculty Senate councils involved in the review of the proposal be set up to develop the policies. In addition, continuing involvement and oversight of the policies and Institute by a review board is critical as the policies and Institute evolve.

**Graduate Certificate in Transit Management and Operations** tabled until further clarification is provided on the differences between the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificates and future funding. These concerns were also raised by the Program and Budget Council and the Academic Matters Council.

**Management Certificate in Sustainable Business Practice** tabled until it is clear that approval for the electives listed was obtained from the various departments teaching the elective courses. Such approval is needed to ensure student access to the courses. The funding model was questioned by the Program and Budget Council and the APC seeks additional information on the appropriateness of the model.
Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management: tabled pending additional clarity on the question raised by the Program and Budget Council regarding the funding model.

Undergraduate Certificate in Transit Management and Operations  tabled until further clarification is provided on the differences between the Undergraduate and Graduate Certificates and future funding. These concerns were also raised by the Program and Budget Council and the Academic Matters Council.

Master in Business Administration (MBA) with a Focus in Finance  The Master in Business Administration (MBA) with a Focus in Finance was unanimously approved. Some additional clarity in section 1A of the proposal on how the credit requirements for the proposed “Focus” compare with the credit requirements for the general MBA degree program would be helpful. This only becomes clear with the accompanying table. A question was also raised about whether the diploma and degree would include the descriptor “with a Focus in Finance.”

Programs on Hold:

Food Studies Certificate Program  The Council reviewed a proposal submitted by the Center for Public Policy and Administration in CSBS for a Food Studies Certificate Program. While the concept of creating a Certificate Program in Food Studies appears valuable, the Council has identified several issues that need to be addressed prior to approving the proposal.

- First, it was questioned whether a Center may offer a certificate program given that University guidelines stipulate that Centers cannot award degrees or offer majors or courses for regular University credit (see Faculty Senate Website for Center Guidelines): Centers and Institutes are organizational units on the Amherst campus created to implement academic and training programs, clinical or community service, or research activities that cannot ordinarily be accommodated within existing department structures. Centers and Institutes cannot award degrees or offer majors or courses for regular University credit, nor can they hire tenure-track or tenured faculty. The Center for Public Policy and Administration/CSBS should contact Bryan Harvey on the appropriateness of their unit administering this certificate program.

- The proposal allows for two courses in a student’s current major to be applied toward the certificate program (p. 4). A certificate program in analogous to a minor when there is no major in an area. The guidelines for a minor are that no more than one course from a student’s major can be counted toward their minor. Thus, to be consistent with the
standards for a minor, the proposal needs to be modified to read that no more than one course taken by a student to satisfy their major requirements may be applied to the Food Studies Certificate Program.

· On p. 4, the proposal also reads that “at least two, and preferably three, courses above the 100 level should be included in the student’s plan of study.” Given the advanced study expected in a certificate program, the Council would like to see “at least three” of the five courses be above the 100 level.

· On p. 2, the proposal reads that “Certificate students will be required to take 15 credits from among these courses, with at least one course from each of the four areas and the fifth course taken from any of the areas...” Concern was expressed that students would not be able to fulfill this requirement since some of the courses in Cluster 4 are not available to non-majors and others are very difficult to get into. Therefore, the proposal should state that students should take at least one course from each of three areas or the range of courses in Cluster 4 should be expanded.

· A related concern is that all of the departments with courses identified in the proposal appear not to have been consulted about the inclusion of their courses. There are courses in HTM, Journalism and STPEC and no representatives from these departments are on the steering committee or in the group overseeing the degree program. A member of the Council from Anthropology indicated that the curriculum committee in that department had not been consulted, nor was the Chair. Therefore, it is not clear that all of the courses listed are available to students as non-majors or that students can readily get into the courses. The departments with courses in the certificate program need to provide a letter which indicates the department’s approval of their courses for the certificate program, whether the courses are offered with regularity, and whether non-majors can get into the courses.

· Another concern is if there is adequate support for advising of students in the certificate program. On p. 4 of the proposal, it is indicated that “if advising demands exceed current resources, CPPA and other participating departments are willing to provide a small annual stipend to a member of the steering committee or other UMass staff to help coordinate advising for the program. Letters from the departments should also indicate whether the department is willing to provide for the “small annual stipend” and/or other resources for advising. The proposal should indicate which departments are willing to provide the resources for advising.

· The Council would like to see a commitment in writing from other participating departments who will comprise the steering committee or rotate into positions on the steering committee. This should be specified in the proposal as well.

· Last, the department designations in the proposal and course titles should
correspond to those in the course catalog. Typos should also be corrected.