To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Pedro Caban, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: April 30, 2013

Subject: Report and Recommendations

M. VanUllen and F. Bolton (staff).

CC&I Members Absent: B. Dieffenbach and P. Gonczlik

The CC&I Committee met on April 30, 2013 to discuss three items of business. The following recommendations are now forwarded for GAC’s review and further action.

1. **School of Public Health – Request to revise the Biomedical Sciences MS degree program**

   Students in the Biomedical Sciences MS program are presently required to successfully complete 22 course credits (18 specified and 4 elective) and 14 master’s thesis research credits for a total of 36 credits. The following proposed core course changes necessitate an adjustment to the 22 course credit distribution: (1) Bms 590, Laboratory Rotations, credit increase from 1 to 3; (2) elimination of the Bms 500b, Molecular Genetics, or Bms 504b, Biochemistry, course choice for 3 credits as neither are or will be offered, and (3) replacement of Bms 504a, Comprehensive Biochemistry, with another 4 credit course Bms 502, Macromolecular Structure and Function. The resultant new configuration of the 22 course credits now becomes 17 specified and 5 elective. Additionally, these requested course changes align the Biomedical Sciences MS program requirements with changes previously made and approved for the PhD degree program.

   This proposal, particularly the reformation of lab rotations, is reflective of the department’s desire to refocus its learning objective from teaching students techniques to exposing students to differing scientific approaches. The configuration of course, research and total program credits has been maintained. The Committee considered the proposal to be thorough and clearly presented and voted (6-0-0) to endorse it.

2. **School of Public Health – Request to revise the Public Health DrPH degree program**

   Proposal was tabled pending receipt of additional information that the Committee deemed necessary for further discussion.

3. **School of Education - Request to revise the Curriculum and Instruction PhD degree program**

   The current earned credit requirement for the PhD program in Curriculum and Instruction is 78. The Department of Educational Theory and Practice proposal seeks to reduce this credit load to 63. Three key points were presented in support of the change. (1) Program revisions and restructuring of the comprehensive exam have been implemented to focus more directly on research methodology in order to better prepare students for successful dissertation research and positions as researchers. This focus differs from the program’s original concentration on education practitioners. Consequently, the need for internships is no longer required. (2) Students complete advanced seminars in fulfillment of their area of specialization. Therefore, requiring 6 credits of advanced seminars in addition to core coursework as currently specified in the curriculum was viewed as unnecessary and redundant. (3) Similar PhD programs in the discipline require 60 credits which places ETAP’s 78 credit program at a disadvantage in student recruitment.

   Given the refocus of the program towards research the Committee agreed that the program revisions and credit reductions were warranted and justified. The proposal received unanimous approval (6-0-0).