

Graduate Council Meeting
August 28, 2008

Members Present: Bridget Davidson, Ramsey Fowler, Lance Hayes, David Hollier, Elizabeth Katz, Rob Manzer, Paula Marks, Connie Porter, Russell Rains, Scott Roberts, Ray Sant, Tom Sechrest, Kris Sloan, Kathleen Wilburn, Donna M. Jurick, SND (presiding)

Members Absent: Stan Horner, Karen Jenlink, Marsha Kelliher, Tom Leonhardt, John Loucks,

Others Present: Mary Lambert Howerton, Molly Minus, Amanda Holland (recording)

1. Minutes of February 4, 2008

The minutes passed unanimously with no corrections noted.

2. MAHS Concentration in Social Psychological Services

Sr. Donna Jurick informed the Graduate Council that the Master of Arts in Interpersonal Studies, approved by the Council at the February 4, 2008 meeting, was not approved by the Board of Trustees. While the Board of Trustees agreed with the reasoning behind the proposal, they countered that it seemed there must be an easier solution and asked that the Graduate Council revisit this proposal and bring it back at a future meeting of the Board.

As a solution, Connie Porter and Elizabeth Katz proposed that, rather than creating a new degree program, the Social Psychological Services Concentration should be resurrected in the Master of Arts and Human Services degree program. This concentration was eliminated in 1999 when the Master of Arts in Counseling was created to comply with changes made by the State that affected qualifications necessary for the LPC licensing exam. However, the elimination of this concentration left students who decided later to not pursue a counseling career no fall-back despite the fact that they had earned substantial graduate hours and invested significant amounts of both time and money in their pursuit of a graduate degree.

All of the courses identified with this concentration are in existence in the 2008-2009 Graduate Bulletin. No new courses or resources will be required in reinstating this concentration. This course of action will provide opportunities both for students who want to become an administrator or caseworker in a non-profit, government, state or private counseling center and for students who started in the Master of Arts in Counseling program but decide that a career in counseling is not what they desire and make the decision to discontinue the program.

The Social Psychological Services concentration will not provide the 48 hours required for an LPC license and so will not compete with the Master of Arts in Counseling degree. This concentration will be offered to any entering student; however, it will not be highly promoted as it is primarily for MAC students who need or want to pursue an alternative course of study.

Students pursuing this concentration will be required to complete the standard 18-hours of MAHS core courses and 18 hours of concentration courses.

It was clarified in discussion that, while this degree will not be promoted heavily or used to multiply enrollment, it will be offered to entering graduate students—not just to MAC transfers—and thus, it should be added to the graduate application as a concentration option in the MAHS

program. It was pointed out that this degree program would be ideal for someone interested in a career in non-profit administration or an office position in a counseling setting.

Also discussed was whether or not an evaluation process exists for MAC students in order to identify those who may not be ideal counseling candidates. Elizabeth Katz assured the Council that there is an evaluation process for identifying students who are not suited for a career in counseling. In the past, those students were simply encouraged to leave the program; now, those same students will be given the option of transferring many of their credits to the MAHS Social Psychological Services degree program.

Motion: To approve the reinstatement of the Social Psychological Services concentration to the Master of Arts in Human Services degree program. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Holland