

Duke University

DURHAM
NORTH CAROLINA
27708-0928

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
304 UNION WEST
BOX 90928

phone (919) 684-6447
e-mail acouncil@acpub.Duke.edu
fax (919) 681-8606

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Academic Council

Thursday October 23, 2008

Paula McClain (Political Science, Chair of the Council): We are now into the meeting of the Academic Council [following the Annual Faculty Meeting]. The first order of business is to approve the minutes of the September 25 meeting. Could I have a motion to accept the minutes as written? Is there a second? Any discussion? Questions or corrections?



Barbara Shaw (Chemistry): I believe it was on page 4, that in the middle of the text, on the left side, it says increase Arts & Sciences allocation by twenty-five. Is that twenty-five slots? Twenty-five dollars? Or what is it?

...

Provost Lange: It's PhD graduate slots in the Arts & Sciences...

Shaw: Slots.

McClain: So, we will make that correction¹.

Shaw: And, I have one other suggestion. There was a one-page table apparently that was to accompany this from the Graduate School Report, and I couldn't find that within the material on the web-page.

John Staddon (Faculty Secretary/Psychology and Neuroscience): We don't add those things unless someone explicitly asks for them to be added. All

sorts of presentations are made to the Council and it would probably be excessive to append every one.

Shaw: Well, a lot of the minutes are devoted to discussion about it. I would ask that that be added, so that it's clear to the faculty.

McClain: Okay, she had a PowerPoint presentation of several slides.

McClain: No, she had several slides. But if you will speak to John directly, if you want that particular slide, we can see if we can get it from Dean Wright.

Staddon: Or you can email Dean Wright – I'm sure she'd be happy to share it.

Shaw: Thank you.

[The September minutes were approved *nem. con.* without further discussion.]

McClain: One announcement: As indicated on your agenda, since this is the Annual Faculty Meeting, President Brodhead and ECAC are hosting a reception immediately outside this room following the meeting. And we hope that your schedule will allow you to attend.

Proposal from the Global Health Institute for a Master of Science degree

Dr. Mike Merson is here to present the proposal today, and it will be brought back for further discussion and vote at the November 20 meeting.

Michael Merson (Medicine/Director, Global Health Institute): This item is a nice follow-on to the



¹ The minutes have not been modified, since this was a question about the meaning, not the accuracy, of the record. Prof. Shaw was not present at the September meeting.

discussion about being a global university and involving faculty in the process. This Masters degree has really benefited enormously from input from a lot of faculty from the review process that's been set up at the university. The graduate faculty, the Academic Programs Committee, ECAC, all have participated.

What you have is a one-page document that we circulated beforehand that briefly describes the program. It's a multi-disciplinary program, because we know we need a multi-disciplinary approach to health. It's the first one given by an Institute – proposed to be given by an Institute – which I know is groundbreaking. We feel the Institute is a logical home for this degree. But of course we will involve faculty from many of the Schools at Duke – Fuqua, Sanford, Nicholas, the Medical School –really everybody, all the Schools will be involved.

Our goal is to train graduates who will be prepared to engage in clinical, epidemiological, social-behavior and policy-oriented research, as well as contribute to the design implementation and management of health programs. It will be a 32-unit curriculum with five core courses, one elective from each thematic block, a field experience, to apply and learn research methods, and a research-based scholarly thesis. Each student will have a faculty advisor and will choose to take a field experience at one of the international institutions where our Institute is currently collaborating around the world, in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

What I want to assure you as a previous Dean in another life, is I am aware of the importance of having the highest quality for any masters degree. We will only take 10 students in the first year, to be sure that we are getting it right.

I should tell you that we've had many inquiries. The only program like it in this country is just beginning at Berkeley. The one that closely models it in the world is at Oxford. It's interesting that the Oxford Program, which has been existing for three years, now has 200 applicants for 25 positions. So we know that there's a big demand out there, but we want to start small and assure the highest quality.

A number of questions have been raised in the process as we've gone forward with this, so let me just mention a few of the answers we've given to the questions in case you're considering them. We know the importance of having faculty involvement. We have now about 20 members and about 25 affiliates of our Institute, many of whom have agreed to be involved in the Program. The five core courses will all be new courses. And we have a faculty member who is dedicated to that course.

The electives, most of them, to begin with, will be courses that already exist. However, we are developing a number of new elective courses with faculty around the campus.

The field sites, we are confident – certainly for a small number of students like ten – will be adequate for handling the research projects that the students will undertake. And we have been fortunate to get a pres-

tigious NIH grant, called a Framework Grant, to help in developing the program and courses, and for funding a Program Coordinator for the first three years.

So, I want to just conclude by saying we are very privileged to have this opportunity. We feel that we will be filling a unique niche here at Duke, but also in the country, and are out in front, I think, on a very exciting kind of degree. We feel that the deliberation and consultation that we have had helps to assure us, as you have indicated, that we will be able to deliver the finest quality product.

I have here with me, Lisa Croucher, who heads the Institute's education activities and Chris Woods, who is going to run the Masters Program and will be the Director of the Program, to help to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

Questions

Garnett Kelsoe (Medical Center): Mike, I noticed that there were two required courses, I think it was Methods in Global Health I and II, and I assume that those are epidemiology and statistical courses? What is the nature of those courses?

Merson: One will be more on epidemiology and biostatistics, and will be taught by an epidemiologist, actually, and who is in Community & Family Medicine, Brian Pence. The other will be a mixed methods course, a combination of social science methods, even some economic methods, that actually is going to be taught by Jen'nan Read, who is a new professor in Sociology and she is actually piloting that course – it's an interesting kind of course, because it will be mixed methods, it's not epidemiology and biostatistics. She's piloting it with undergraduates next semester before it gets introduced into the masters program. She will use global case examples – both courses will use as much as possible – in teaching the methods.

These will be new courses, all the more reason, again, to start with only ten students and be sure we get them right. The critical part of any Master of Science, in my opinion, is more than any, are the core methods courses.

I think another point I'd make is that we want to teach in this Masters Program the importance of working with people from other disciplines, so I think taking a mixed-methods course also has the advantage of appreciating the value and the use of different methods in approaching global health research.

Barbara Shaw: Is there going to be any science component to this?

Merson: Science, meaning?

Shaw: Meaning, biology, medicine, physiology...

Merson: Yes, certainly, in the introductory course on Global Health Challenges – it will be an intro. survey kind of course, where there will be certainly some biology and some medicine in that. There will also be a course on Global Health Systems and Policy, which will have a lot related to Health Systems, so certainly there would be medicine or nursing in that. Also, the students will take courses in four thematic blocks: just

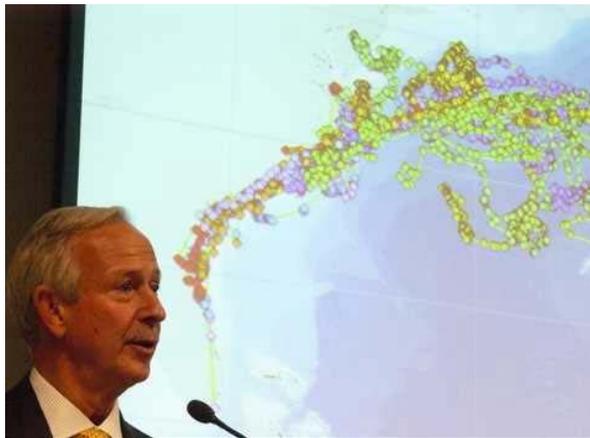
to read them out: Disease Causation and Prevention, which has certainly biology and, I guess you'd say, Science in it; Global and Environmental Health which we'll also do a lot w/ the Nicholas School; Global Health Policy and Management Population Science, will certainly have Science in that.

So, I think one of the reasons we're going with a Masters of Science rather than a Masters of Public Health is that we really want to train in this program, people who will go on to have serious research careers. Thank you very much.

McClain: We will vote on this on November 20th. That is the only item we had today – the meeting is adjourned. Please join us for the reception. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

John Staddon
Faculty Secretary, November 3, 2008



President Brodhead describes the Duke diaspora during the annual faculty meeting.