

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Greissman, Richard
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 11:59 AM
To: Randall, David C
Cc: Swanson, Hollie; Jones, Davy; Brothers, Sheila C; Gonzalez, Lori S; Subbaswamy, Kumble; Anderson, Heidi Milia; Blackwell, Jeannine
Subject: Temporary Admissions Suspension - Reproductive Sciences (MS & Ph.D.) degree programs
Attachments: CHS Cover Letter to Senate Council.docx; CHS Explanatory Memorandum for Senate Council.docx; CHS Faculty Council.docx

Dear David,

As you will recall from our conversations over the past few weeks, I have been working with Dean Lori Gonzalez and Professor Davy Jones, the latter in his role as chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee, to map out a general process for initiation of and action on a recommendation within a College to suspend admission on a temporary basis to a degree program. Dean Gonzalez and I have kept the Provost apprised of developments in this specific case and of the consideration of a general process this case has spawned.

Having initially misstepped by giving Dean Gonzalez inaccurate advice on the protocol for applying such a temporary action, I worked with Professor Jones to develop a proper course of action. He and I quickly agreed on two points:

- changes in admissions policies, temporary or permanent, are initiated by the faculty of the unit (e.g., department) in which a degree program is housed; and,
- Senate Rule 3.3.2.1 [Procedures Governing Consolidation, Transfer, Discontinuation, or Significant Reduction of an Academic Program or Educational Unit] speaks mostly to various permanent changes in the status of a degree program (e.g., discontinuation). On the matter of “significant reduction,” Senate Rule 3.3.2.1 does not provide explicit guidance on what kinds of changes constitute significant reduction; nor does it specify a process for decisions that are ‘less than significant reduction.’ Therefore, while abiding by the premise that any change in the educational policies of a degree program, temporary or permanent, must be initiated by the appropriate unit faculty, Professor Jones and I agreed to approach the Senate Council with a proposed process wherein a temporary change and/or ‘less than significant reduction’ in the status of a degree program does not traverse the vetting road all the way to Senate Council/Senate final action that permanent, significant program reductions do. I hasten to add that the temporal boundaries of the terms “temporary” or ‘less than significant reduction’ have yet to be defined, but any such definitions would surely include a one-year suspension of admission in a degree program.

At our urging, Dean Gonzalez has exercised the general process that is proposed below for the Senate Council's consideration. To wit, she adhered to the policies and procedures prescribed by the Rules of the University Senate (SR 3.3.2.1) and the rules of the Department of Clinical Sciences and College Faculty to secure the votes on approval from unit faculty and the representative faculty governance bodies of the College of Health Sciences on a motion as follows:

"To suspend admissions into the graduate programs in Reproductive Sciences for one year (for those students who might otherwise be admitted into the programs beginning in the academic year 2010-11)."

Provost Subbaswamy fully supports the initial administrative decision taken by Dean Gonzalez in this matter - that in view of present and impending fiscal situation, she would not be able to provide fiscal support for the admission of first-year and transfer students into the M.S. and Ph.D. graduate programs in Reproductive Sciences in the 2010-2011 academic year.

Looking prospectively, it would seem prudent to anticipate that similar situation may arise in other colleges as well. Until the Senate Rules formally codify a process for vetting temporary/less than significant changes to an educational program, I respectfully request that the Senate Council consider the vetting process proposed below as a template to guide of deans and unit faculties on effective and expeditious handling of such situations. I also request that you invite Professor Jones, in his capacity as chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee, to attend the April 26th meeting of the Senate Council and lead a discussion on a protocol in which the Senate Council could process *temporary* and/or less than significant changes in the status of a degree program that do not need to reach the University Senate for final action. I have permission from Professor Jones to outline here the proposed terms of such a new protocol, ensuring that the members of the Senate Council (to whom I request you send this correspondence and the accompanying documents) have time before Monday to ruminate on the general question of a protocol and the specific matter before them from the College of Health Sciences (see accompanying documents).

A new protocol would require:

- the appropriate unit faculty and elected faculty governance bodies to vote on approval of any recommendation to a temporary change in the status of a degree program, adopting the process from SR 3.3.2.1 for those levels, and in accordance with the Rules of the Unit Faculty and the Rules of the College Faculty

- the Dean to forward to the Senate Council for its advisement a summary of the matter and the results of those votes on approval
- the Senate Council to verify to its satisfaction that there has been compliance with the polices and procedures prescribed in the Rules documents (cited in the first bulleted item above) and then take no further formal action.

Finally, and assuming that on Monday the Senate Council finds the proposed protocol sensible, I respectfully request that the Senate Council apply the abovementioned protocol to the matter at hand in the College of Health Sciences: That the Senate Council at its April 26 meeting accept under advisement the recommendation emanating from the College of Health Sciences, and thereby permit the Department of Clinical Sciences to impose a one-year suspension of admission (Fall 2010/Spring 2011 entrants) into the graduate degree programs in Reproductive Sciences (Masters & Ph.D.).

Yours sincerely,

Richard