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SR-91-92-138 (APC)

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ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
Recommendation

SR-91-92-138 (APC)

To prepare a letter of intent to plan a new doctoral degree program in psychology.

RATIONALE: See attached.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED
BY SENATE: Robert W. Sawrey DATE: 9-24-92

DISAPPROVED
BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: *J. M. [Signature]* DATE: 10-2-92

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS:

MEMO

To: Blaker Bolling, Chair, Academic Planning Committee

From: Marty Amerikaner, Chair, Psychology Department

Re: Intention to plan a new doctoral degree program in psychology

Date: April 8, 1992

The psychology department is seeking permission from the Board of Trustees to plan a new professional psychology doctoral program. The rationale and several important aspects of the program are described in the attached draft letter. Dr. Lenny Deutsch has reviewed the letter, and informed me that our next step is to seek review from your committee. Please understand that the enclosure is written as a letter to the chancellor from Dr. Gilley because that was the format of the "model" which was provided to me for drafting this "intent to plan" request. Dr. Gilley has not yet seen or evaluated this proposal. I would be pleased to discuss this proposal with you and the committee; please let me know if I can assist your committee in any way.

c.c Dr. Lenny Deutsch

PASSED BY THE APC ON MAY 7, 1992.

SENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE.

Blaker Bolling
CHAIR, APC

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

April 7, 1992

Dear Chancellor Manning,

Marshall University requests permission, via this letter of intent, to plan a Psy. D. (Doctor of Psychology) degree program.

This program in professional psychology would have as its focus the preparation of doctoral level professionals to deliver and supervise the delivery of mental health services in rural areas, especially in southern West Virginia. Our intent is to develop an innovative, cooperative doctoral program which is unlike any other in the state. We will be drawing upon the resources and expertise of programs at the W. Va. Graduate College, the Marshall Medical School and the Counseling and Rehabilitation Department in the Marshall College of Education.

As you know, the need for mental health services and accurate, comprehensive behavioral health programs in rural areas of West Virginia is urgent. Many of the critical health issues facing the rural areas of our state and region have strong behavioral and social components to them. Obesity, smoking, alcohol and substance abuse, teen pregnancy, child abuse and family violence... This list of local and national nightmares grows continually. Each is a complex problem, posing a significant threat to health, well-being, and even life itself. All have psychological and social-psychological dimensions to them. All will require the development and implementation of effective treatment and prevention programs, as well as sophisticated clinical research and evaluation programs. While masters-degree level training has prepared many fine clinicians who currently work in the rural areas of this region, the ever expanding knowledge base and the clinical supervision required to adequately prepare professionals to develop innovative clinical and educational/preventative programs argues strongly for the need to provide doctoral level training in professional psychology.

Moreover, there has been an accelerated pushsh at the national level for psychologists to be licensed exclusively at the doctoral level. Currently, West Virginia is one of only 2 remaining states to license psychologists at the masters-degree level. While this is a complex issue, it is clear that doctoral level licensure is the national norm. This suggests to us the strong possibility that our state may soon move in that direction. The West Virginia Psychological Association (WVPA) recognizes the need for additional doctoral training in the state, and has formed a committee to explore doctoral training options (the chair of the Marshall Psychology department serves on this committee). This committee has surveyed the WVPA membership, who indicated strong interest in additional doctoral training opportunities in the state.

Currently, the only doctoral level psychology program in the state is housed at West Virginia University. While it is a fine, nationally recognized program, it is clearly a research-focused, Ph.D. program whose graduates are prepared for, and accept positions all over the country. Though a credit to its university and the state, the WVU program can't possibly be "all things to all people." Our goal is to prepare doctoral level practitioners who will be prepared for, and dedicate themselves to providing high-level psychological services to the under served populations of this state and region.

As currently envisioned, the program would be a collaborative venture which would provide urgently needed doctoral training in a program unlike any other in the state. The focus of the program will be on supplying highly skilled service providers to the rural areas of our region. We intend to recruit students who are willing to commit to staying in and serving the rural population, and will reserve a significant portion of available training stipends for these students. A major component of the program is extensive, carefully supervised field work designed to bring services to these under served areas while students are still in training.

Administratively housed in the Marshall Psychology Department, we would draw upon the expertise, educational and service delivery systems, and faculty resources of M.U.'s Department of Counseling and Rehabilitation, the Psychology and Social Work faculty within the MU medical school and the Psychology Program at the WV Graduate College in Institute. This collaborative effort will allow for maximum utilization of state resources, provide for comprehensive educational programs and ensure high level supervision and training in clinical services.

Community mental health centers around the region have expressed strong support for the development of this program, and several have indicated their willingness and ability to help by providing training stipends for students. Given the extensive and varied expertise represented by faculty of the cooperating programs, the need to teach doctoral classes relatively infrequently, and the strong potential we see to attract outside funding for this program, we anticipate minimal financial costs to the University resulting from this program.

Approval is requested to proceed with developing a program proposal for a Doctor of Psychology (Psy. D) degree program in professional psychology for submission to the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

J. Wade Gilley
President