

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, September 9, 2011

DECISION ITEM A: **Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action**

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education approve by consent the following degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item:

- Master of Science in Building Construction Management to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette at West Lafayette

Background

At its August and September 2004 meetings, the Commission for Higher Education began implementing a new policy on new academic degree programs on which staff proposes expedited action. These programs meet the criteria identified in that policy and are hereby presented for action by consent, in accordance with the aforementioned policy and the information presented in the supporting documents.

Supporting Documents

- (1) *Background Information on Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action, August 26, 2011*
- (2) *Policy for New Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action, September 2, 2004*

Background Information on Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action

August 26, 2011

CHE 11-27 Master of Science in Building Construction Management to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette at West Lafayette

Proposal received on July 13, 2011

CIP Code: Federal – 460412; State – 460412

Projected Annual Headcount: 15; FTEs: 15; Degrees: 11

New State Funds Requested, Actual:

Year 1: \$ 0

Year 2: \$ 0

Year 3: \$ 0

Year 4: \$ 0

Year 5: \$ 0

In August 2009, the Commission for Higher Education approved the first three of nine specializations within the M.S. in Technology degree, which the Commission understood were to evolve into separate degree programs over the next several years. Building Construction is one of the nine specializations and is consistent with the plan identified in 2009. When all nine specializations have been turned into separate degrees, the umbrella M.S. in Technology is to be eliminated.

Policy for New Academic Degree Programs on Which Staff Propose Expedited Action

September 2, 2004

Pursuant to the Commission's desire to expedite action on new academic degree program requests whenever possible, the staff has identified a set of factors, which though not exhaustive, suggest when a request might be considered for expedited action by consent and when a request would require Commission consideration prior to action. With respect to the latter, the presence of one or more of the following factors might suggest a significant policy issue for which Commission attention is needed before action can be taken:

- Consistency with the mission of the campus or institution
- Transfer of credit
- New program area
- New degree level for a campus
- Accreditation
- Unnecessary duplication of resources
- Significant investment of state resources

In the absence of these factors or an objection from another institution, Commission staff will propose expedited action on new program requests. Examples of situations that pose no policy issues for the Commission include, but are not limited to:

- Adding a second degree designation to an existing program (e.g. A.S. to an A.A.S.)
- Delivering an on-campus program to an off-campus site through faculty available on-site or traveling to the site
- Adding a degree elsewhere in a multi-campus system to a new campus within the system.

All requests to offer new academic degree programs must continue to be accompanied by a full program proposal, unless otherwise specified in the guidelines. It is only after a proposal is received that a determination will be suggested as to how the request might be handled.