Academic Program Approval and Termination

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March 27, 2013

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The National Picture

According to a survey in 2007:

- 45 of 48 state or system boards conducted approval of at least some new programs
- 41 states conducted some form of program review, with 33 states reviewing all programs covered under their policies on a regular cycle, such as every five to seven years.

(Source: Barak, 2007, SHEEO)
The Board of Governors considers the following academic program items for approval:

- New degree proposals for doctoral programs (research and professional)
- Termination of doctoral programs (research and professional)
- Substantive revisions to existing doctoral programs
- Exceptions to 120 credit hours to degree for baccalaureate programs
- Limited Access Status for baccalaureate programs
The Board of Governors has delegated to university boards of trustees the authority to approve the following academic program items:

- Implement or terminate bachelor’s, master’s, and specialists degrees
- All items coming forward to the Board of Governors for final approval
- Other curricular offerings (majors, concentrations, certificates, etc.)
Board Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricula Offerings – Amended 03/24/11

- Provides definitions for types of academic offerings
- Establishes approval criteria for:
  - Need and demand - consider economic, workforce, and student interest
  - Controls for unnecessary duplication
  - State-level accountability – addresses state-level goals
  - Institutional readiness – resources available for quality program
New Degree Program Approval

Board Regulation 8.011, Authorization of New Academic Degree Programs and Other Curricula Offerings – Amended 03/24/11

• Establishes a two-step process for review and approval
  o University Board of Trustees – implement below doctorate
  o Board of Governors – implement doctorates and review all others

• Establishes the State University System Academic Program Inventory
  o Uniform data reporting
Other Degree Program Actions

Board Regulation 8.012, Academic Program Termination
• Establishes termination criteria and authority
• Requires a plan to accommodate affected students and faculty
• Mitigates any adverse impact on diversity

Board Regulation 8.013, Limited Access
• Protects against unnecessary restrictions on admission
• Facilitates statewide articulation

Board Regulation 8.014, Bachelor’s Degree Exceptions to 120 Credit Hours Requirement
• Reduces state cost by preventing unnecessary program length
• Facilitates statewide articulation
Board Regulation 8.004, Academic Program Coordination – New 11/10/11

• Facilitates collaboration, articulation, and coordination across the State University System

• Annual review of current, proposed new programs or terminations to address:
  o Appropriate levels of postsecondary access
  o Unnecessary duplication
  o Collaboration and shared resources
  o Adverse impacts caused by new or terminated programs

• Council of Academic Vice Presidents and Board Staff utilize the annual university work plans and accountability reports