Docket Item:

University Program Approval: Oregon State University (OSU), Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Psychology degree program.

Summary:

OSU proposes a new degree program leading to M.S. and Ph.D. in Psychology. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program:

M.S. and Ph.D. in Psychology degree at OSU.
Oregon State University seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s approval to offer an instructional program leading to a M.S./Ph.D. degree in Psychology.

1. Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution’s mission and strategic plan.

Oregon State University (OSU) is proposing a new Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Psychology degree program and it will be located in the School of Psychological Science, College of Liberal Arts. In keeping with the land-grant nature of OSU, the proposed graduate program is designed to be applied in nature, oriented towards producing graduates who can help solve practical problems faced by Oregon, the nation, and the world. [Note: OSU is currently the only Carnegie Doctoral/Research-Extensive University in the country that has no doctoral program in Psychological Science.]

The M.S./Ph.D. in Psychology program will have a focus on the application of psychological methods and research to solving practical problems, with areas of concentration in Engineering Psychology, Health Psychology, and Applied Cognition. Further, graduates of the Psychology Ph.D. program will be qualified to define, assess, analyze, and evaluate problems in both the private and public sector that are behavior based. The proposed program has been designed to have a strong research component, ensuring that graduates have the tools to tackle a variety of applied problems. In addition, the program has been designed to foster collaboration with other OSU academic units and to support OSU’s broader research and graduate education enterprise. The proposed program is specifically designed to feed psychological expertise into areas of critical state needs, especially with regards to health, engineering and technology, and education. Psychology graduate programs in general tend to have far more applicants than they can admit, and this is true of Oregon’s graduate programs. It is anticipated that up to five students will be admitted per year, with an expectation that approximately 25 students will ultimately be enrolled in the program at any given time once the program is fully operational. This program is designed to focus on Ph.D. students rather than terminal M.S. students. Psychological Science is a necessary and integral component of all three of the signature areas described in OSU’s strategic plan, and the proposed M.S./Ph.D. in Psychology program is designed to directly intersect with OSU’s mission as described in that plan.

2. What evidence of need does the institution have for the program?

and 2022. Job candidates with Ph.D.’s in applied areas (as in the proposed program) are predicted to have the best job opportunities. Employment opportunities are expected to especially grow in health care settings (by 27%), although opportunities in scientific research and development and educational services are predicted to also have solid growth. Psychology graduate programs typically have far more applicants than they can admit. According to a recent American Psychological Association (APA) Graduate Study in Psychology publication, there is unmet demand for psychology Ph.D. programs within Oregon.

3. Are there similar programs in the state? If so, how does the proposed program supplement, complement, or collaborate with those programs?

The proposed Ph.D. program in Psychology does not share a location with other public programs in Oregon. There are clinical or counseling psychology doctoral programs at George Fox University, the University of Oregon, and Pacific University, but the proposed program is not a clinical or counseling program and does not overlap with these programs. The University of Oregon (UO) has a Ph.D. program with emphases in Cognitive/Neuroscience and Social/Personality Psychology. However, these programs are more oriented towards basic research in psychology than in the applied areas emphasized in the proposed program. Given the different areas of focus of these programs, OSU does not believe that the proposed program will overlap with the UO program for students. Portland State University (PSU) has a Ph.D. program in Applied Social and Community Psychology, Applied Developmental Psychology, and Industrial/Organizational Psychology. PSU has noted that the proposed program has some overlap with their Ph.D. in Psychology as both programs are in Applied Psychology. Given the proposed areas of concentration, this overlap is only likely in the subdiscipline of health psychology and the OSU program, as discussed above, will intentionally avoid work in Occupational Health Psychology where direct overlap might occur.

4. What new resources will be needed initially and on a recurring basis to implement the program? How will the institution provide these resources? What efficiencies or revenue enhancements are achieved with this program, including consolidation or elimination of programs over time, if any?

The operating budget of School of Psychological Science has grown 152% since 2008. Although much of this has gone towards new faculty, the School has also staffed increasing numbers of Graduate Teaching Assistant positions. These positions will be allocated to Ph.D. students when the program commences. The School of Psychological Science moved into the newly remodeled Reed Lodge in the Fall of 2013. At the time of the remodel and move, space was allocated to graduate students (present and future). Additionally, there is also space in existing laboratories that could accommodate graduate student desks. Because the undergraduate B.A./B.S. in Psychology is now offered at distant locations online via Ecampus, this new revenue source will help to increase the School of Psychological
Science’s budget, the revenue of which will be used to help support the new graduate degree program.

All appropriate University committees, the OSU Board of Trustees, and the Statewide Provosts Council have positively reviewed and approved the proposed program.

**Recommendation to the Commission**

The Statewide Provosts Council recommends that the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission authorize Oregon State University to establish an instructional program leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Psychology, effective Fall 2016.
Institution: Oregon State University
Program: M.S./Ph.D. in Psychology

Action: At the November 5, 2015 meeting, the Statewide Provosts Council approved a new program for Oregon State University, M.S./Ph.D. in Psychology, to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review/approval. Seven provosts approved the program; one provost abstained. The OSU Board of Trustees approved it at their October 16, 2015 meeting.

Eastern Oregon University
Sarah Witte, interim provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained

Oregon State University
Sabah Randhawa, provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained

Oregon Health & Science University
Jenny Mladenovic, provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained

Oregon Tech
Brad Burda, provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained

Portland State University
Sona Andrews, provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained

Southern Oregon University
Susan Walsh, interim provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained

University of Oregon
Scott Coltrane, provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained

Western Oregon University
Steve Scheck, provost
Approved
Opposed
Abstained