Comments Concerning Liaison Responses and Request Letter

Liaison requests with the draft Category I proposal attached were email on 19 February 2010 with a response requested by 8 March 2010. The liaison message clearly stated that lack of response would be interpreted as support of the proposal. The original message and the responses to our proposal are listed below. We received 11 responses to our liaison request; all were supportive of our proposal; five offered helpful suggestions or comments that we respond to in each of the paragraphs below.

Bill Lunch suggested another Political Science course (PS 574) be added to the list of courses in the policy section of our curriculum. We agree that the course is very appropriate for the proposed curriculum and we added the course to our list.

Russ Karow from Crop and Soil Sciences suggested a course in employee management or “personnel management for dummies.” We have elected not to include such a course in the curriculum for two reasons. First, because all or out students will be early to mid-career professionals, it is likely most will have had substantial employee management experience. Second, the most appropriate course at OSU in this area, BA 553, Human Resources Management, requires a prerequisite that most or all of our students would not have had.

Badege Bishaw, Director, Sustainable Natural Resources Graduate Program, provided several comments, suggestions and expressed a concern. He suggested that two SNR courses (522 and 540) be considered in our curriculum. We added SNR 522, Basic Beliefs and Ethics in Natural Resources to our Human Dimensions section. We elected not to add SNR, 540 Global Environmental Change to the list because our students will be employed natural resources professionals and likely will be very familiar with most of the topics presented in that class. Dr. Bishaw pointed out that 10 students per year was realistic based on the SNR program. We will initially limit enrollment to 10 students because we are uncertain the level of effort advising these students will take and we will ramp the program up slowly until faculty become more familiar with advising these students. However, we anticipate that many more students will apply than will be accepted. Dr. Bishaw points out that courtesy faculty cannot be paid to teach or advise students. We expect our courtesy faculty members to participate in advising students and graduate teaching to the extent possible given their appointments as a condition of their courtesy faculty appointments, and do not anticipate paying them for those services. We list 11 courtesy faculty members in our faculty list and all teach and/or advise graduate students currently. Dr. Bishaw points out that it would be good for the proposal to include some statements of collaboration and complementarily to the SNR and MNR program at OSU. We concur and have added text to sections 6a and 6b in our proposal. Dr. Bishaw also expressed a concern about sharing some of same faculty as potential student advisors, and tapping some of the same Natural Resources professionals as potential pool of students. We address these concerns in our revised proposal (sections 6a, b and d), but basically believe that our potential pool of students is very different than students that might seek a MNR degree and that OSU has sufficient capacity to accept students in both programs.
Susan Capalbo from Agricultural and Resource Economics offered several suggestions. First, she pointed out that our distinction between "policy" and "human dimensions" seemed arbitrary, with courses about law in both, and with no economics courses in either. We concur and moved a law course from the human dimension list to the policy list. We also added AREC 534, Environmental and Natural Resource Economics to the human dimensions section and AREC 532, Environmental Law to the policy section. We elected not to remove SNR 521 from our list of courses as she suggested because we want to retain as much flexibility for our on-line students as possible. Because all or our students will be currently employed by natural resources agencies, it seems likely they will face scheduling conflicts and we would like to retain that flexibility. Next, Dr. Capalbo observed that about half of the policy and human dimensions classes are in FW and that the students could elect a program that was dominated by FW classes. The FW classes that are required in each of these sections, give students discipline-specific training that we believe is needed. However, we concur that students would be better served by taking classes from other departments/disciplines. We have added additional courses from other departments (AREC, COMM, PS and SNR) in both sections, and we have changed the lists to prevent students from taking more than one FW class in each section.

Robert J. McGorrin from Food Science & Technology related a concern about how this is a true graduate degree versus a BS with additional slash classes. He implied that the comment came from a faculty member who didn’t read all the details of the proposal and we believe that probably explains the comment. However, in response, the PSMFWA degree will require 57 credits, at least half of which will be graduate only courses. The degree will also require two internships and will provide early and mid-career professionals the type of training that state and federal agencies want their employees to obtain.

Original Liaison Request

From: Edge, W. Daniel - FW
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 9:48 AM
To: CAS Dept Heads; CAS Deans; Salwasser, Hal; Jensen, Edward C.; McComb, Brenda; Maness, Thomas; McLain, Tom; Doescher, Paul; Bishaw, Badege; Bloomer, Sherman - COS; Bechert, Ursula; Mason, Robert; Beatty, Joseph - Email Forward; Andrew R. Blaustein; Menge, Bruce; Wolf, Aaron; Rodgers, Lawrence; Oriard, Michael; Hale, Jeffrey; Kaplan, Jonathan - ONID; Lunch, William; Gallagher, Sally; Iltis, Robert; Steel, Brent; Xing, Jun; Duncan, Robert Ames; Abbott, Mark Richard; Harte, Michael James; Loveland, Walter D - ONID; Francis, Sally K.; Fisk, Martin
Cc: Leslie, Susie; Dowhower, Dan; FW Faculty

Head/Chair/Director:

The attached Category I proposal describes a new Professional Science Masters in Fisheries and Wildlife Administration that we propose to begin offering the fall of 2011. The degree will be delivered entirely on-line, but we anticipate there may be some students in residence.
In accordance with the liaison criteria in the Curricular Procedures Handbook, this memo serves as notification to your college/department/program of our intent to develop and offer this new degree. Please review the attached materials and send your comments, concerns, or support to me by 8 March 2010. Your timely response is appreciated.

Please note that a lack of response will be interpreted as support of our proposal.

Thank you for your time and input.

Dan Edge

W. Daniel Edge
Department Head
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
Oregon State University, 104 Nash
Corvallis, OR 97331-3803
Voice: 541-737-2910; FAX -3590
daniel.edge@oregonstate.edu
http://fw.oregonstate.edu/