Thanks, Steve. Please see my answers below. I appreciate your help with the proposal.
Susan

Hello Susan,

Our Budgets & Fiscal Planning Committee met last week to review your Category I proposal (MA in Women Studies). Thanks for all your work on this proposal.

Below are a couple questions that emerged during our review of your proposal.

1. You have identified incremental personnel costs totaling $9.2K/year ($6.0K salary and $3.2K OPE). Who specifically are these costs for and how were the amounts derived? Also, do you anticipate these costs increasing (as salary and OPE costs often do) over the four-year projection period?

The salary is to support the teaching of WS 521 (3) Feminist Leadership & Management, WS 522 (1) Grant-writing and Development for Feminist Organizations, and WS 523 (2) Community Organizing & Collective Action. The $6,000 is based on our current rate of $3,000 per three-credit course for fixed-term instructors. I do not anticipate that cost increasing. Joel Colvin (his email is included in the proposal) has suggested the OPE is high for now, and so that estimate should cover possible increases over the projection period.

2. You reference GTAs on page 13 (Section 4c). What costs associated with those GTAs do you anticipate as those GTA positions "migrate to the MA program" from the MAIS program?

We currently fund eight .25 GTAs in the MAIS program. We anticipate all of those positions will migrate to the MA program. We do not anticipate any change in the costs of the TAs.

3. Do you anticipate any course development costs associated with the new WS course offerings?

We do not anticipate any costs associated with the new offerings. All of them have been developed and are currently in the curriculum proposal system.

4. What is the basis for your estimate of "8-10 new full-time graduate students each year?" This was on page 6 (Section 1f) of your proposal.

We currently enroll 4-6 new grad students each year in the MAIS program, almost all of whom would prefer an MA. So we anticipate most of these applications will become applications for the
MA program. We have never actively recruited for the MAIS program, and we have often received feedback from undergraduate students around the country that they would be interested in an MA but not the MAIS. With the MA, we will begin active recruiting for the program and so anticipate that we will easily attract an additional 4-6 students per year. At 8-10 new students per year, we will also be at capacity to supervise grad students.

5. On page 6 (Section 1g) you anticipate conferring five degrees per year. Is the difference between 8-10 new students per year and 5 degrees per year a function of anticipated attrition or something else?

Yes, we do anticipate attrition. We also have had the experience in the MAIS of graduate students who take longer than expected to complete their degrees (for a variety of reasons, mostly having to do with life issues), and so we expect that during the first few years we’ll have lower completion rates as some of these students take, four, five, six years to finish occasionally.

6. How much do you anticipate this program will cannibalize from enrollment in the existing MAIS program?

We imagine practically all of first area MAIS students will take the MA instead, although we expect some students will still take WS as a second area in the MAIS, and so we will still participate in that program.

7. In the “Evidence of Market Demand section (page 11-12, Section 4a), you noted that 12 regional employers returned surveys about the need for this program. What percentage of the total survey population is represented by the 12 employers who responded (i.e., how many surveyed employers did not respond)?

We sent out 47 surveys. So, that’s about a 27% return rate.

8. Will there be other programmatic objectives, functions, or activities that will have to be deferred or cancelled to account for the time and money that will be invested in this proposal (i.e., what are the key identified opportunity costs associated with this proposal)?

Not really. Essentially, we have built most of the program before we have proposed it. Additionally, as part of the proposed School of Language, Culture, and Society we have more access to resources to support the program—for example, through co-sponsored events or cross-listed courses.

Please send Carol, me, and our committee (copied above) your responses to these questions.

After we receive your feedback/responses, we will conclude our financial/budgetary review of your proposal, vote on it, and move it on to the next committee via either email this week or a discussion/vote at our next BFP Committee meeting (on April 25th).

I’ve copied Gary Beach (Academic Affairs), Mike Bailey (Curriculum Council Chair), and Theresa Filtz (Graduate Council Chair) above to keep them apprised on the status of this proposal and to help expedite the proposal through all the committees.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Steve Hoelscher
BFP Committee Co-Chair

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