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University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

April 15, 2013

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to deactivate the major in Recreation and Leisure Studies (B.S.Ed.) will be an agenda item for the April 22, 2013, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee


cc: Provost Jere W. Morehead
Dr. Laura D. Jolly



The University of Georgia

College of Education
Office of the Dean

TO: Fiona Liken

FROM: Dr. Jim Marshall, Associate Dean for Academic Programs 

DATE: March 14th, 2013

RE: Deactivation Proposal for Recreation and Leisure Studies, BSED

Enclosed please find a deactivation proposal from the Department of Counseling and Human Development requesting deactivation of the BSED degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies.

The College of Education's Curriculum Committee approved this proposal on February 26th, 2013

**OUTLINE FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION
OF A GRADUATE OR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM**

I. Basic Information

1. Institution University of Georgia Date February 26th, 2013

2. School/College College of Education

3. Department/Division Counseling & Human Development Services

4. Program

Degree B.S.Ed. in Education

Major Recreation and Leisure Studies

5. Deactivation Yes or Termination _____

6. Last date students will be admitted to this program January, 2013

7. Last date students will graduate from this program August, 2014

8. Abstract of the deactivated or terminated program

Provide a brief summary of the deactivated or terminated program that includes an overview and highlights of the response to the criteria in Section II.

9. Signatures

Department Head

Dean of School/College

Dean of Graduate School

II. Conditions for Deactivating or Terminating Programs

The deactivation (temporary suspension) or termination (discontinuation) of programs is expected to address satisfactorily the conditions listed below in order to be approved and implemented within the University of Georgia. Please provide sufficient information to confirm each condition.

1. Provide copies of the studies and decisions that warrant deactivation or termination of the program.

- The Graduate Programs in RLST have traditionally been low-enrollment majors. The Masters students took many of their courses with undergraduates through cross-listed courses. The courses taken just by Masters students or doctoral students have for a number of years been below the COE required enrollment limits, requiring the current and previous Department Heads to request exceptions to this policy routinely. The past three years, the numbers have been extremely low (last year 2 doctoral students and 1 masters student), necessitating the deactivation of the two graduate programs while the faculty decides how to re-conceive the programs to bring them more in line with the national trends in RLS.
- Almost half of the undergraduate courses are currently taught by doctoral GTAs. With the deactivation of the doctoral program, this will leave a substantial number of undergraduate courses that the current faculty assigned to RLST would now need to teach.
- Dr. Gwynn Powell, the faculty member in RLST who has her teaching assignment with the undergraduate program, recently announced she would be leaving UGA to take a teaching position at another university.

- Dr. Powell's pending departure, along with the deactivation of the doctoral program, meant that the remaining three faculty members in RLST would have to teach the undergraduate curriculum.
- Only one of the remaining three faculty members has the experience and expertise to teach the necessary course requirements; while the other two faculty could teach undergraduate service courses, those courses are not part of the accredited degree program.
- It is not feasible for one faculty member to teach all of the courses required for the accredited degree program, and having one person teach all of those courses does not meet the standards to maintain program accreditation.

2. State the reasons for deactivating or terminating the program.

The resources of the program have been continually depleted starting in 2007 with the elimination of a full-time instructor, in 2008 the elimination of a state funded TA, in 2009 with the elimination of part-time instructional support, in 2010 with the reallocation of two assistantships to KINS, in 2011 the reduction of administrative support to the program and the forced move from the Ramsey Center to Aderhold, in 2012 the forced deactivation of the graduate program and in 2013 the unwillingness of the Dean's office to support a leaving faculty member who has a 70% assignment to teach in the undergraduate Recreation and Leisure Studies Program. Given this trajectory, the remaining three faculty in Recreation and Leisure Studies cannot support offering a substandard degree program, we do not have graduate students who can assist in the delivery of the content knowledge or offer practical guidance and we will lose our accreditation.

3. State the plans for allowing those students already in a program to complete degree requirements, including specific information on a.) how students will be notified of the program termination and b.) how students will be counseled on completing the program.

A.) Accepted Majors Currently Enrolled: We will see our current juniors through to graduation but we will not start a new cohort in our undergraduate Unified Core in Fall, 2013. Only two courses (RLST 5020/7020: Marketing and Finance in Leisure Services; RLST 5340/7340: Human Resource Practices in Leisure Services) and the internship experience (RLST 5700) are warranted in the senior year. Current Ph.D. students and faculty will be used to meet those course requirements. When the last student graduates, Recreation and Leisure Studies at The University of Georgia will cease to exist as a stand-alone program.

- a. Current RLST students were gathered in one of their common courses and the faculty delivered the news regarding the plans to deactivate the program and personally offered them counseling on the affirmation that they would be able to complete their degrees and that those degrees would be accredited.
- b. Each student in the degree has a faculty or Ph.D. student advisor who will closely counsel him or her through the completion of his or her degree program.

B.) Declared Majors who had not started the program:

When we assessed the numbers for closing the program, we only had 9 declared majors for next Fall and that is not enough students for a course to even make enrollment (we need 15 students to offer a course) in the College of Education. As result, we did not have enough students to run a class cohort. In addition the loss of our faculty without suitable replacements would also force the loss of our accreditation and we do not want students in jeopardy of not having an accredited degree. We have reached out and invited these students for career and academic counseling related to finding a suitable new major (Human Development Services, Sport Management, Communication, Interdisciplinary Studies, Natural Resource and Recreation, etc.). Most have successfully done so.

C.) Intended Majors who had not been accepted into the program:

Although we appreciate and value all UGA students, intended majors could not be considered in the decision to close the program as they had not yet been accepted. In addition, we usually only have less than 1/3 of intended majors ever eventually become declared RLST majors, since every student must declare an intended

major when entering UGA. We understand that some of them may have simply had not yet completed the process to become a major but until we have had an official in-take interview AND they have processed your paperwork with COE Student Services, they could not be considered in our decision making process. Just like other majors (pre-law, sport management, business, etc.), until you are “accepted” and officially declared RLST, we have no formal obligation to the student. We felt we needed to make that decision now, instead of waiting until add/drop in the Fall, 2013 when the consequences could be much more severe.

4. What will be done to minimize the impact or termination of the program upon the personal and professional lives of the faculty and staff involved, specifically a.) how will faculty and staff be notified of the termination and b.) how will faculty and staff be re-deployed?

It is an unhappy moment for the three remaining RLST faculty, but in light of the economic climate and challenges we have navigated the past six years, the decision to close our program is the right one since we would not be able to operate it to our standards. The RLST faculty have already been contributing to other programs in Counseling and Human Development Services and we will refocus our teaching and service in that direction as well as teaching RLST courses that are not necessarily connected to the undergraduate degree program. However, our scholarly allegiance will always be with Leisure Studies, so even without a program, our contributions to the research in that area will continue and we will remain active in national and international leisure studies associations.

5. What will be done to insure that deactivation or termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

N/A

6. What plans, if any, is there for subsequent reactivation or reinstatement, respectively, of the deactivated or terminated program?

There are CHDS department discussions that a recreation management emphasis may be included in the planning for a new major in human development services.