University Academic Planning Council

BS-Athletic Training Degree Request Review Report

April 26, 2012

Committee members: Richard Straub-chair, Biological Systems Engineering, UAPC; Dale Schoeller, Nutritional Science; Andrew Winterstein, program representative, Kinesiology; Lisa Beckstrand, UW System representative; Jocelyn Milner-ex officio, Academic Planning and Analysis

Recommendation: Approve

Background and Rationale:

The Department of Kinesiology requested permission to plan for this degree in March 2010, which was subsequently approved. This program has already existed as an Athletic Training option within the Kinesiology major since 2005. The UW-Madison Athletic Training Education Program actually existed before that formal option as a certificate program. It was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) in 2000 and the current option maintains that status. In 2005, Athletic Training was approved as a major option within the Kinesiology major in the Dept. of Kinesiology and the Certificate in Athletic Training was discontinued. In 2006, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) awarded the program continuing accreditation through 2012-13 which has since been extended to 2015-16 at which time it will complete a self-study and CAATE site-visit review. CAATE now mandates that accredited programs be delivered at the degree level by 2014-15. If this program is to maintain its accreditation, it must comply necessitating this request.

The current option program limits enrollment to 16-18 students annually and historically has had more demand than capacity allowed even though no recruitment is done. Demand for students is strong, and individuals that wish to be certified athletic trainers need to graduate from an accredited program. The majority of the graduates go on to advanced degrees and those that do not, pursue careers as athletic trainers or in related health areas.

Since this is program already exists at the UW-Madison, and the proposed degree is essentially identical to the BS-Kinesiology Athletic Training option, no new resources are required, all courses for the program are already offered and required as fulfillment of the option requirements, no new courses are being proposed, and facilities are adequate. Prerequisite courses are already near capacity with the current enrollment, and structure of the program and resource limits will not allow significant growth at this time as the program transitions from an option to a degree program. An admissions goal of 20 students has been proposed. The proposed
degree does not detract from or duplicate the program from which it emanated since it already is an option of that program. That option will be discontinued upon approval of this proposed degree.

There are other programs in Wisconsin including five at other UW Systems institutions, but it should be noted that the UW-Madison program was the second accredited program in the UW System as well as in the state. Four other UW Systems schools have since been accredited.

The Department of Kinesiology faculty are highly supportive of this request, and the Department has committed to add faculty to this area as resources become available. Currently many of the core courses and advising are done by academic staff--instructors, associate faculty or clinical faculty. Currently, only one faculty position is dedicated to this program, although numerous other Kinesiology faculty and staff provide support via their course offerings. Research potential for faculty in this area is strong with interest in such areas as injury prevention and rehabilitation, epidemiology, assessment of patient outcomes, and barriers and impediments to physical activities.

Review letters were unanimously very supportive of this program and its request to move to a degree program. They noted the acknowledged the reputation and strength of the current program and its staff-many of whom are nationally recognized for their expertise and contributions, the strength of the curriculum, and the strong potential demand for the program’s graduates. Also acknowledged was the synergy with the other medical and health science programs at the UW-Madison which other athletic training programs in the state cannot provide.

Based upon the information provided in the program self study, the internal and external letters of support and assessment, and the program responses to questions raised by this review committee, we recommend approval of the request by the Department of Kinesiology for a Bachelors of Science degree in Athletic Training.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Straub
Review Committee Chair