

## **Recommendations for Planning Interdisciplinary Degree Programs**

Interdisciplinary degree programs create exciting opportunities for both students and faculty to take full advantage of the synergism that the involved disciplines create. The changing needs of the community of potential employers of our students have dictated an increased value placed on the skill set and knowledge base that such programs provide.

As we have gained more experience with the planning for interdisciplinary degree programs, the challenges of doing so in a thoughtful way that is respectful and inclusive of the viewpoints of all stakeholders and is also administratively and operationally sound become clear. Faculty of course own and are responsible for the curriculum, however the Colleges involved are ultimately accountable for successfully navigating through the administrative and faculty governance processes of establishing and sustaining degree programs. To that end, I am offering recommended guidelines for the planning of all interdisciplinary degree programs internal to a College and between Colleges.

### **Interdisciplinary Degree Program Planning Within Colleges**

The Dean's office should work with Department Chairs and the Associate Dean--graduate or undergraduate as appropriate to the proposal--to establish the membership of a planning committee for each proposed interdisciplinary degree program within the College. The committee should have representation from all stakeholders both internal and external to the College as appropriate. The balance of membership from different academic areas should be chosen in proportion to the expected participation in the degree program being proposed. The chair of the committee should either be the Chair of the College Undergraduate or Graduate Programs Committee, an Associate Dean of the College or a member of the degree program planning committee who has been elected by the committee after its formation. The Provost's office will need to be informed of the intent to present a pre-proposal for the degree program as well as the membership of the planning committee as soon as possible.

The planning committee should be charged by the Dean with the following.

- Curriculum design and any admission guidelines for the program.
- Market analysis for the viability of the program (Provost's office can assist.).
- Recommendations/plans to the Dean for the resources required for the start-up and sustainability of the degree program.
- Analysis of the impacts (resources, enrollments, etc.) to any degree programs in existence at FAU both within and external to the College.
- Establishment of the make-up and guidance role of an oversight committee once the degree program is approved (membership may overlap with the planning committee).
- Recommendation of a department home for the degree for administrative and accountability purposes. The Dean's office may make an initial recommendation to the committee of such a department home for committee discussion.
- Development of a pre-proposal to be submitted to the Provost's Office that has strong majority support of the committee and has been approved by the College Dean.
- Development of the full proposal if/when the pre-proposal is approved.
- Work closely with the Provost's Office as the proposal moves through the various curriculum committees. Proposals should not be moved from one committee to another without consultation with the Provost's Office.

## **Interdisciplinary Degree Program Planning Between Colleges**

The Provost's office will work with Deans and/or Associate Dean(s)--graduate or undergraduate as appropriate to the proposal--to establish the membership of a planning committee for each proposed interdisciplinary degree program that crosses Colleges. The committee should have representation from all stakeholders both internal and external to the programs and Colleges represented in the proposal as appropriate. The balance of membership from different academic areas should be chosen in proportion to the expected participation in the degree program being proposed. The chair of the committee should either be from the Provost's Office or an appointed Chair/Co-Chairs from within the planning committee appointed by the Provost's Office.

The planning committee should be charged with the following.

- Curriculum design and any admission guidelines for the program.
- Market analysis for the viability of the program (Provost's office can assist.).
- Recommendations/plans to the Dean(s) involved for the resources required for the start-up and sustainability of the degree program.
- Analysis of the impacts (resources, enrollments, etc.) to any degree programs in existence at FAU both within and external to the Colleges involved in the proposal.
- Establishment of the make-up and guidance role of an oversight committee once the degree program is approved (membership may overlap with the planning committee).
- Recommendation of a department home (or homes if there are concentrations to the degree program proposal that are College based) for the degree for administrative and accountability purposes.
- Development of a pre-proposal to be submitted to the Provost's Office that has strong majority support of the committee and has been approved by the College Deans involved.
- Development of the full proposal if/when the pre-proposal is approved.
- Work closely with the Provost's Office as the proposal moves through the various curriculum committees. Proposals should not be moved from one committee to another without consultation with the Provost's Office.