UNIVERSITY RULE

03.02.99.M1 Administrative Framework for Interdisciplinary Programs
Approved December 14, 2006
Revised October 12, 2012
Next Scheduled Review: October 12, 2017

Rule Statement

This rule ensures that appropriate offices at the University are engaged in verifying that the establishment and review of administrative units and programs comply with the required information and steps needed for notification and/or approval by the System, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and all relevant accreditation bodies.

Reason for Rule

This rule clarifies responsibilities and expected support for creation and engagement in interdisciplinary activities and ensures that appropriate evaluations and notifications occur in the creation and continuation of such programs.

Procedure and Responsibilities

1. GENERAL

1.1 An Interdisciplinary Research Program (IRP) involves a group of faculty, from more than one discipline representing single or multiple colleges, organized and administered by the procedures outlined in this rule for the purpose of enhancing research and scholarly activities beyond what is possible through the traditional administrative structure.

1.2 An Interdisciplinary Curricular Program (ICP) involves a group of faculty from more than one discipline representing single or multiple colleges, organized and administered by the procedures outlined in this rule for the purpose of enhancing curricular activities and overseeing graduate and/or undergraduate education for a degree program, a concentration, a minor, or a transcripted certificate that does not exist in an existing academic unit. The approval of ICPs is ratified through the normal approval process.

1.3 An Interdisciplinary Overview Council (IOC), which consists of all deans of colleges having faculty participating in any IRP or ICP, together with the Senior
Associate Vice President for Research, the Dean of Faculties and Associate Provost, and either or both the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Programs will review proposals for the creation of new interdisciplinary programs and evaluate cyclical reviews for reaffirmation or discontinuation of established programs. The convener of the deans shall serve as chair of the IOC.

2. ESTABLISHING INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

2.1 For a group of faculty to establish an IRP or ICP, they must submit a proposal in compliance with University SAP 03.02.99.M1.01. The deans of colleges, the Office of the Vice President for Research, or the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President may provide support for the development of IRPs or ICPs consistent with their respective areas of responsibility.

2.2 All proposals for creating Interdisciplinary Programs will be submitted through a committee composed of the department heads with faculty participating in the proposed program, and the IOC.

2.3 The Vice President for Research will make the final decision regarding the approval of IRPs and the Provost and Executive Vice President will make the final decision regarding the approval of ICPs. The establishment of, and funding for, the operating budget is the collective responsibility of the participating units or other offices in the university as proposed and approved by the IOC.

3. PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

3.1 It is responsibility of the IOC to establish a review schedule that will involve the department heads with faculty participating in the program and the Executive Committee of the program.

3.1.1 All IRPs and ICPs that do not award degrees will be dissolved after 5 years unless a review explicitly states the IOC, in concurrence with the Vice President for Research and the Provost and Executive Vice President recommend their continuation.

3.1.2 All ICPs that do award degrees will be reviewed in the 7 year cycle required by the University Academic Program Reviews. These reviews or any notification from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of a low producing program could result in the termination of the degree, with an appropriate ‘teaching out’ of the program to provide reasonable service to students already enrolled in the program.

3.2 As part of the normal annual review of faculty, each participating department head will review with each of their involved faculty members their future level of
participation in the IRP or ICP as well as the results of their previous participation. These discussions may be incorporated into promotion, tenure, and merit raise decisions.

4. COORDINATION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TAMU SYSTEM

IRP or ICP efforts may include faculty from other members of The Texas A&M University System as outlined in the program’s bylaws. A memorandum of understanding must be initiated between the system member(s) and Texas A&M University, as represented by the Vice President for Research or Dean of Faculties, to establish the level of participation of the system member(s) in the IRP or ICP.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

University SAP 03.02.99.M1.01 Creation and Review for Interdisciplinary Programs

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