After meeting and discussing with the Kinesiology Department (March 2016), I support the justification presented by the department and endorse the discontinuance of the MA in Kinesiology.

Signature of School Dean: [Signature]

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The Kinesiology department presented a persuasive rationale for discontinuing their MA program. The Graduate Studies Subcommittee unanimously supported the proposal, while acknowledging a sense of loss to the university's post-graduate curriculum. The Education and History MA programs noted that in the future, individuals seeking to coach athletic teams might consider their master's programs as practical alternatives to the Kinesiology MA.

Signature of Graduate Studies Chair: Laurel McCabe

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**REVIEW BY EPC**

Dates of EPC hearing(s):

- After review of the initial proposal, EPC has determined that no further consideration of the proposal is warranted and the major/program is recommended for termination. See below for explanation. *(If the Academic Senate does not request further consultation, the program is terminated.)*

- After review of the initial proposal, EPC has determined that further consideration of the proposal is warranted. See below for details of the additional review activities conducted, as well as EPC’s recommendation.

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**EPC RECOMMENDATION TO THE SENATE**

Signature of EPC Chair:

(A copy of EPC’s recommendation shall be sent to the Chair of the Faculty, Academic Senate via the Senate office, the proposer(s), the Provost, the AVP of Academic Programs, and the Dean of the School and the Chair of the Department of the program or major under proposal for discontinuation.)
SENATE RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT

Signature of Faculty Chair:

PRESIDENT DECISION

Signature of President:

Sent to Chancellor’s Office on:

(A copy of this entire form shall be sent to the Academic Senate via the Senate office, the proposer(s), the Provost, the AVP of Academic Programs, Dean of the School and Chair of the Department of the program or major to be discontinued.)
Sonoma State University  
Department of Kinesiology  
Proposal for Discontinuance of the Master of Arts Degree

Preamble

Following departmental deliberation (in consultation with the Dean of Science and Technology) the faculty of the Department of Kinesiology unanimously request the proposal for discontinuance of the Master of Arts Degree in Kinesiology.

The program in 2015-2016 had 19 (21) students, which is a high number for this degree plan. Over the past couple of decades the program has varied from as low as 6 students to the mid-20’s. The Kinesiology Department was able to achieve this current high number of graduate program students by promotion of the program to undergraduate students and lowering its entry G.P.A. For the 2016-2017 academic year we did not receive any applications. We also did not receive any applications for the 2017-2018 academic year but to be forthright we discouraged students that contacted us about the program from applying.

The faculty are concerned about several aspects of the graduate program that lead to this decision.
- The great academic disparity between students affecting course design and rigor.
- The decreased enthusiasm of graduate students versus undergraduate Exercise Science students (going into physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, chiropractic, athletic training and other health care fields) in the quality of research projects produced.
- The decreased passion of the graduate students for a rigorous graduate program due to academic disparity, long evening classes that meet 1x per week and not being on-campus during the week to participate in the fullness of academics and research due to full-time jobs.
- Concern about what does a terminal degree in KIN get you. Ninety-three (93) percent of Kinesiology baccalaureate graduates have no need for a Kinesiology Masters Degree for the careers they are pursuing because they need professional post-baccalaureate degrees in PT/OT/DC/PA/ATC. The other seven (7) percent of baccalaureate degree Kinesiology students are pursuing careers in personal fitness training and coaching which can benefit from a masters degree but are not typically the higher quality students. A masters in Kinesiology at SSU is a terminal degree; these students are not pursuing Ph.D.’s in Exercise Physiology / Biomechanics / Sports Psychology / History and Philosophy of Exercise and Movement.
- Decreased emphasis of campus on graduate programs. No dedicated tenure-track hires for graduate programs. There is a lack of graduate assistant dollars. The faculty has a sense of burden that the graduate program creates work overload versus a sense of excitement to work with masters students.
EPC Required Information Items

1.) Tabulation of Students in the Program
- 8 students graduated with their Masters Degree Spring / Summer / Fall 2017
- 8 students have all of their academic coursework done and are poised to graduate with the culmination of their thesis research / project.
  - 4 are currently active
  - 1 has not attended SSU since Fall 2016
  - 3 has not attended since Spring 2016
- 5 other students have not finished all of their coursework and also need their thesis / research project.
  - 2 are current (2 units / 2 units)
  - 1 has not attended SSU since Fall 2016 (needs 11 units)
  - 1 has not attended since Summer of 2016 (needs 3 units)
  - 1 has not attended since Spring 2016 (needs 17 units)

2.) Kinesiology Department Program & Accreditation Reviews
During the Department’s 2013 Self-Study the conceptual framework of the graduate program was expressed as: “The program emphasizes a common core/knowledge base, the interdisciplinary nature of kinesiology, focus on applied professionals, and a culminating experience that is individualized to meet each student’s professional needs and interests.”

Students in the graduate program in 2013 stated that the top three reasons they were in the program were to qualify for higher pay or job advancement, for preparation for a specific job or career (non-kin undergrads seeking to get into personal fitness training), and personal enrichment. Ninety-two percent of the students indicated that SSU was their first choice for a masters program (50% of our students were undergrad Kinesiology at SSU). Regarding the curriculum offerings they suggested, “More applications to careers, especially in Advanced Exercise Physiology and Advanced Biomechanics.”

The Action Plan section of the 2013 self-study proposed specific revisions for the graduate program:
- Increase Advanced Exercise Physiology and Advanced Biomechanics to 3 units to add field-based application and research design laboratories;
- Change name (and increase to 3 units) Intro to Scholarly Inquiry to Research Methods for a critical analysis of research, with a new separate 3-unit course in Research Design to help students develop their specific interests in Kinesiology for their ultimate thesis research or project;
- Eliminate Individual Movement Programs as an adapted physical education course.
- However the elimination of the Pedagogical Methods course was not suggested but unfortunately along with the Individual Movement Programs course they are victims of the elimination of the Physical Education and Adapted Physical Education undergraduate Bachelor of Science Concentrations in Kinesiology.

3.) Specification of Lack of Resources
SSU has its primary emphasis on undergraduate programs. SSU does not have dedicated tenure-track hires for graduate programs. There is a lack of graduate assistant dollars to develop programs where graduate students teach undergraduate coursework in the department, which could attract graduate students from outside the local area. At SSU a department’s faculty invests in a post-baccalaureate program in their discipline as a means of conducting research coupled with the excitement of working with masters students pursuing careers and Ph.D.’s in their discipline.

4.) Impact on Service Area
The Kinesiology Master of Art Degree serves as a resource for local citizens who want to expand their knowledge and avail themselves to positions that require a masters degree. Half of our masters students are straight out of the Kinesiology baccalaureate program and want a masters degree to pursue full-time coaching positions at a junior college or university, which require a masters degree. The other half of our students are Kinesiology undergraduate students that are returning after five or so years in the workforce and desire a masters degree to progress in careers of personal fitness training or non-Kinesiology undergraduate students who want to enter into the profession of personal fitness training. These non-Kinesiology undergraduate students lack undergraduate coursework in Kinesiology and are making up undergraduate courses in Kinesiology so they can take the advanced masters degree courses in the sub-disciplines of Kinesiology.

5.) Effect on General Education
None of the courses in the Kinesiology Master of Arts Degree are part of the undergraduate General Education structure

Courses to be Eliminated from the University Catalog
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<td>Seminar in Psychological Bases of Human Movement</td>
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<td>Research and Issues in Physical Education Teacher Education</td>
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<td>Seminar in Biomechanics</td>
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<td>Advanced Physiology of Exercise</td>
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Courses to Remain in the University Catalog for the Teach-out Program
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Discontinuance Kinesiology MA

KIN Grad Prog Discontinuance Form.pdf and 1 other
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Out For Signature

Document History

Signed by Laurel McCabe (laurel.mccabe@sonoma.edu)
IP: 73.93.140.80

This document has not been fully executed by all signers.