

To: Bob Snyder, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Nancy L. Hurlbut, Interim Dean, College of Professional Studies

Subject: Recommendation for the Two Programs in Category IV of the Final Priorization Report

Date: March 6, 2009

Cc: Kathy Munoz, Chair of Department of Kinesiology, Saeed Mortazavi, Chair of School of Business, Eric Van Duzer and William Wilkinson, Applied Technology Priorization Document Writers

This memo is in response to the request that all Deans forward their recommendations regarding programs in their College that were ranked in Category IV in the recent Academic Program Prioritization Report. Among the College of Professional Studies for which I am the Interim Dean, the Department of Kinesiology Athletic Training Education Option and the Department of Applied Technology fall into category IV. According to the Priorization Task Force (PTF), programs in Category IV are to be restructured and generally received low program scores. Restructuring or eliminating these programs will permit the redistribution of resources to other targeted programs and/or will enhance the academic performance of the university.

Athletic Training Education Option (ATEP) in Department of Kinesiology

I agree with the PTF conclusion that the Athletic Training Education Option (ATEP) in Department of Kinesiology should be permanently suspended or eliminated. My conclusion is based upon the Department of Kinesiology Priorization report, the PTF report, the department's vote to discontinue the option, and my analysis of the viability of the program. From my observation of the option, a number of variables indicate that continued suspension or elimination of the option is the only viable conclusion. Variables that support my conclusion include that the HSU region does not have sufficient practicum placements to support the number of students required to create an economically viable program. While a number of students select ATEP as their option of choice, the percentage that can actually be accepted into the clinical portion of the program (junior/senior years) is less than 10% because of the limited number of practicum placements available. Further, the program must be accredited which would require significant enhancement of resources both to pay for the accreditation and to replace at least one full time faculty member. Third, the new accreditation standards mandate that Athletic Training be a stand-alone major. It can no longer be an option within the Department of Kinesiology.

Another suggestion from the prioritization final report was "Recommend elimination of ATEP and reinvestment in other program options." I strongly support the suggestion to reinvest in other Kinesiology options especially since there are new faculty and facilities that need time and resources to develop.

It must be noted that elimination of the program is not without cost. Elimination of the option will result in problems associated with ancillary programs at HSU. The programs affected include Athletics, the Health Center, and Recreation Sports/Intramurals who use student trainers at some of their games.

Athletics will likely have to hire at least one more full-time trainer. That could easily be someone like Deidre Scott who has a 9.50 WTU load for the Department of Kinesiology this semester in ATEP related courses and supervision. Kathy Munoz, Chair of the department, spoke with Rebecca Stauffer about the effect of ATEP elimination on the Health Center, and Rebecca indicated that the Health Center is not required to offer these services, but because we have the Training Room and students available to help injured students, it was a great service to offer. The Health Center pays Kinesiology to hire one GA so they would have money to hire a certified person to replace the GA if they decide to continue the service or they could refer students off campus. Further, Recreation Sports/Intramurals Rugby, Ultimate Frisbee and LaCross (men's and women's) are required to have trainers on site during games. They will probably have to hire someone to meet the requirements or refer the students to the HSU Health Center.

Other than the impact on ancillary programs outside of the academic program, I believe the Prioritization report presents the issues clearly. **In conclusion, the ATEP program should be eliminated or permanently suspended.** If the decision is to continue the program, the university will have to significantly enhance the funding to the Kinesiology Department including but not limited to hiring an additional full time faculty member. I also want to add that maintaining the program should not result in reducing additional funds that might otherwise be directed to the Department of Kinesiology as the department voted to suspend the program and focus their resources onto other options.

Applied (Industrial) Technology Department

The PTF concluded that “Lack of faculty, questionable efficiency factors, and curricular instability suggest that this would be an appropriate program for elimination.” Focusing on the lack of faculty and the instability due to the change of faculty would suggest that elimination is the best pathway; however, the IT Prioritization Report and the department’s response in the Prioritization Final report point out a couple of important variables that need to be underscored as well. For one, the program has solid internal demands (i.e. the number of majors in the program doubled in just a couple of years once the students thought the program was going to remain) and external demands (i.e. the data indicate that the graduates from the program get jobs and that these jobs are some of the best paying jobs for HSU graduates). Additionally, the program supports the community partnership and sustainability/green core values of HSU with the “Green Lab,” the direction of their curriculum, and the present IT grants.

Based upon the information in the AT Prioritization Document and Response, the PTF Report, and HSU core values such as, “We believe individuals must be environmentally, economically and socially responsible in the quest for viable and sustainable communities,” ***I propose that elimination is only one possible outcome and that we should explore at least two other possibilities for the AT Program.***

One possibility is to move AT into Category V and see what can happen under the following situation with no new university investment. “Loan” Dr. Eric Van Duzer who is trained in IT as well as Education from the School of Education for three years to teach in AT and lead the program. Dr. Van Duzer would need to reduce the options in AT and to show that the program can stabilize at about 65 majors or continue to grow with new majors. This would enable the “green niche” and partnerships that have begun and the external grant funding to be put to good use.

An alternative possibility is to reduce AT degree programs to one or two 18 unit stand alone minor(s). The minors to consider would be (a) a manufacturing and operations management minor and/or (b) an industrial design minor.

If neither of the above two alternatives is found to be viable, then the program must limp along with no permanent faculty or hire two full time, tenure track faculty which is what they had in 07-08. I don’t feel

the AT program will be competitive at HSU to receive new faculty, at this time. Dr. Mortazavi, Chair of the School of Business, indicated that he did not agree with continuing the program. I recommend *that we proceed first with alternative one above, then with alternative two above but if neither of these proves workable, then eliminate the AT Program*. It makes no sense to suspend the program instead of eliminating it as the amount of money to start up the labs, etcetera again would be prohibitive.

Under any of these three options, I argue that we maintain the lower division IT General Education Class (IT 104. Beginning Wood). This class offers needed diversity in Area C and I have heard many glowing comments about it. I also argue to keep the upper division GE (IT 308 Socio-Technological Thinking Processes) as long as we have a professor who can teach it and enrolment stays up in this upper division GE course.