May 24, 2006

Karen M. Carney  
Graduate College  
204 Coble Hall  
MC-322  

Dear Associate Dean Carney:

The College of Applied Life Studies Educational Policy Committee has approved the following:

“Proposed Revisions to the Masters of Science Degree in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, College of Applied Life Studies”

If further information is needed, please let me know.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Bo Fernhall  
Associate Dean
PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL: Proposed Revisions to the Masters of Science Degree in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, College of Applied Life Studies

SPONSOR: College of Applied Life Studies  
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism  
Contact: Dr. Cary McDonald, Head  
104 Huff Hall, 333-4410

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Increase the required credit hours for a Masters of Science Degree in Recreation, Sport and Tourism from 32 credit hours to 36 credit hours and make minor revisions to the catalogue description to better reflect current program emphasis. A proposed sample format is displayed in Appendix A.

JUSTIFICATION:

Thesis Option:

Many students pursuing the thesis option consider a Ph.D. and see this as preparation for the advanced degree. Faculty advisors have observed that with today’s requirements for admission to the most desirable Ph.D. granting institutions a higher level of preparation is needed than in the past. Students often lacked grounding in their content area and those with an adequate theoretical foundation frequently lacked the “tools” to execute a quality study. Thus, the addition of one graduate course, at the 500 level, would provide the additional knowledge necessary to complete a comprehensive thesis of high quality. A sample program is displayed in Appendix B.

Non-Thesis Option:

After a thorough review of the MS curriculum the Graduate Committee agreed that to better serve the interests of Masters students wishing to enter the leisure service professions, two basic changes need to occur: 1) a more structured program (management core) of study is needed (24 hrs), and 2) requiring a professional paper (4 credit hours) is more desirable than a classes-only option. It was found that a program limited to 32 credit hours did not provide the preparation necessary to be a successful professional. An increase of 4 credit hours will enhance the educational opportunities for graduate students. A 36 hour program is not inconsistent with others at UIUC, nor in our field. A sample program is displayed in Appendix B.
PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

1. **Additional staff and dollars needed.** Although workloads will be increased by adding an additional course, new faculty hires over the past three years have permitted flexibility in faculty course loads and assignments. The proposed revisions will not require additional financial resources or staffing. The proposed revisions maintain the standard faculty teaching load of four courses per year.

2. **Internal reallocations.** There is no need for internal reallocations for class size or larger work loads. As noted above, faculty workloads will not be increased nor will class size. We expect little change in the number of M.S. graduate students admitted to our program.

3. **Effect on course enrollment in other departments.** There should be no effect on courses in other departments, as the additional 4 hours are department dependent.

4. **Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.** There is no need for additional library acquisitions, as current resources are adequate to accommodate graduate student needs. There will be a need for classroom space—our classroom space request will increase by one.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

Not needed—graduate program request

CLEARANCES:

Dr. Cary McDonald, Head, Recreation, Sport & Tourism  
5-4-06  

Dr. Bo Fernhall, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs  
5-24-06  

Dr. Tanya Gallagher, Dean, College of Applied Life Studies  
5/31/06
PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Master of Science—Catalogue Description

A candidate for the M.S. degree must spend at least one semester on campus and complete a minimum of 36 graduate hours, 16 of which must be at the 500 level and 12 of the 16 in recreation, sport and tourism. Students select a thesis or a non-thesis option to fulfill their requirements. The thesis option requirements include 12 hours of core course work in recreation, sport and tourism, 16 hours of restricted electives, and 8 hours of thesis. Students selecting the non-thesis option are required to complete 24 hours in core course work in recreation, sport and tourism, 8 hours of restricted electives, and 4 hours for a professional paper. A full-time student can complete the program in three or four semesters.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2006
Appendix A
Proposed Sample Format

Master's of Science Recreation, Sport and Tourism

Thesis Option

Core Coursework
12 hours

Restricted Electives
16 hours

Thesis
8 hours

Total
36 hours

Non-Thesis Option

Core Coursework
24 hours

Restricted Electives
8 hours

Professional Paper
4 hours

Note: Restricted electives are selected in consultation with advisor and include specialization and approved elective courses, in the department as well as outside the department.
Appendix B
Sample Program

Option 1 Thesis
12 hrs core courses (RST 501; 503; one of three foundation courses: RST 502, 594S or 594T; and 590)
16 hrs restricted electives (courses approved for graduate credit, consultation with advisor)
8 hrs thesis (RST 599)
36 Total hrs

Option 2 Non-Thesis (Professional Paper)
24 hrs core courses (RST 501; 503; 512; one of three foundation courses: RST 502, 594S or 594T; 594MK; 594FB; and 590)
8 hrs restricted electives (courses approved for graduate credit, consultation with advisor)
4 hrs professional paper (RST 593)
36 Total hrs