

To: Academic Senate Executive Committee

Re: Elevation from option to independent program for Sports and Performance Psychology, Exercise Science, and Sport Administration

From: Dr. Maritere López
Chair, University Graduate Committee



Date: 3/28/2022

Drs. Smith and Moore met with the University Graduate Committee (UGC) on March 22, 2022 to discuss the option elevation proposals for Sports and Performance Psychology, Exercise Science, and Sport Administration. Based on the documents submitted, as well as the clarifications provided, the University Graduate Committee voted unanimously to support the proposed elevations.

While committee members agree that all three proposed programs are of great quality, we are nevertheless concerned with the elevated programs' long-term viability, in terms of enrollment and graduation rates. Under the current program, admission, enrollment, and graduation numbers are robust. However, once the options are segregated, graduation rates will be perilously close to the minimum of five (5) per academic year (as required by AP 71-32 on Program Review). Therefore, we strongly recommend that concerted recruitment efforts be put in place, not only to attract more applicants to each of the programs, but also to increase the number of accepted students who then enroll in and successfully complete the programs.

Successful recruitment efforts, however, will necessarily increase faculty loads. While we are encouraged by the fact that the program is currently conducting a faculty search, it is clear to us that current faculty-to-student ratios may no longer be tenable once the three options become independent programs. Therefore, we urge the college administration to prioritize the hiring of additional tenure/tenure-track faculty to support the three elevated programs.

CC'd:

Dr. Xuanning Fu, Interim Provost

Dr. Joy Goto, Interim Dean, Division of Research and Graduate Studies

Dr. Denise Seabert, Dean, College of Health and Human Services

Dr. Nicole Smith, Interim Chair, Department of Kinesiology

Dr. Stephanie Moore, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Kinesiology