Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: To Remove the Masters of Science in Human Factors Degree Program

SPONSOR: John C. Hart, Assoc. Dean, Graduate College, 333-8740, jch@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Same

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The Institute of Aviation has completed its final academic year, after the 2011 decision to discontinue it. The Human Factors MS degree remains, but has not accepted any new students since the 2011 decision, and currently lists zero registered students. The human factors faculty who remain affiliated with the university have since been reappointed to positions in educational psychology, computer science and the fire service institute, where they continue to serve, teach, research and advise students in human factors through appropriate sub-areas of those disciplines. This proposal thus seeks to remove the Human Factors MS program.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Institute of Aviation was discontinued by the Board of Trustees at their June, 2011 meeting, at the recommendation of Interim Chancellor Easter, due to its low enrollments and high costs. The Human Factors MS program remained, but no longer accepted students and currently lists zero students. The remaining human factors faculty have relocated to Educational Psychology, Computer Science and Psychology where they continue to advise graduate students in human factors through the appropriate research areas within these departments.

The Human Factors MS was recently included in an inventory of graduate programs housed outside of departments performed by the Graduate College. This inventory was performed by a committee chaired by Bill Buttlar, including Gay Miller, Ramona Oswald and Dana Rabin, and assisted by Mary Lowry and Wendy Wimmer. The report “A Graduate College Review of Housing Graduate Programs Outside of Departments” dated 27 Jan. 2014 identified 33 programs across campus including the Human Factors MS. Among its recommendations is a phase-down plan to shutter programs once they are no longer needed. While most of these programs are quite successful and active, the Human Factors MS stood out as the only one with zero students, not accepting any new students, and with no plan for future development.

Document updated October 2013
The facts of this proposal have been confirmed by Prof. Alex Kirlik (244-8972, kirlik@illinois.edu), former Acting Head of Human Factors in the Institute for Aviation, 2006-2010.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

No financial impact is incurred by removing a zero enrollment program not accepting any new students and housed outside a department by a discontinued unit. The program’s faculty have already been redistributed and continue to lead human factors programs through their new units. Impact on PSYC 406, 407 456 and 527 will be negligible as the Human Factors MS program has not allowed any new students for the past several years, and these courses are also in the process of being discontinued.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 Jan. 2015

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Remove the Human Factors entry in the Programs of Study Catalog. Current entry is at:

http://provost.illinois.edu/programsofstudy/2014/fall/programs/graduate/human_factors.html

which includes the following table reproduced here for reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>Required Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 406, 407, 456 and 527</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVI 455 and 597HF</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVI 497ST or 597ST</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Hours Required—AVI 599 (min/max applied toward degree):</td>
<td>4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Requirements:*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLEARANCES:

Signatures:

[Signature]  
Unit Representative:  
Date: Sept 21, 11

College Representative:  
Date:  

Graduate College Representative:  
Date: September 19, 2014

Council on Teacher Education Representative:  
Date:  

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Senate Educational Policy Committee
Proposal Check Sheet

PROPOSAL TITLE (Same as on proposal): To Remove the Masters of Science in Human Factors Degree Program

PROPOSAL TYPE (select all that apply below):

A. ☒ Proposal for a NEW or REVISED degree program. Please consult the Programs of Study Catalog for official titles of existing degree programs.

1. Degree program level:
   - □ Graduate
   - □ Professional
   - □ Undergraduate

2. □ Proposal for a new degree (e.g. B.S., M.A. or Ph.D.):
   Degree name, “e.g., Bachelor of Arts or Master of Science”: ____

3. □ Proposal for a new or revised major, concentration, or minor:
   - □ New or □ Revised Major in (name of existing or proposed major): ____
   - □ New or □ Revised Concentration in (name of existing or proposed concentration): ____
   - □ New or □ Revised Minor in (name of existing or proposed minor): ____

4. □ Proposal to rename an existing major, concentration, or minor:
   - □ Major
   - □ Concentration
   - □ Minor
   Current name: ____
   Proposed new name: ____

5. ☒ Proposal to terminate an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor:
   - □ Degree
   - □ Major
   - □ Concentration
   - □ Minor
   Name of existing degree, major, or concentration: Human Factors MS

6. □ Proposal involving a multi-institutional degree:
   - □ New
   - □ Revision
   - □ Termination
   Name of existing Illinois (UIUC) degree: ____
Name of non-Illinois partnering institution: _____

Location of non-Illinois partnering institution:

☐ State of Illinois    ☐ US State: _____    ☐ Foreign country: _____

B. ☐ Proposal to create a new academic unit (college, school, department, program or other academic unit):

   Name of proposed new unit: _____

C. ☐ Proposal to rename an existing academic unit (college, school, department, or other academic unit):

   Current name of unit: _____
   Proposed new name of unit: _____

D. ☐ Proposal to reorganize existing units (colleges, schools, departments, or program):

1. ☐ Proposal to change the status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department)

   Name of current unit including status: _____

2. ☐ Proposal to transfer an existing unit:

   Current unit's name and home: _____
   Proposed new home for the unit: _____

3. ☐ Proposal to merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B):

   Name and college of unit one to be merged: _____
   Name and college of unit two to be merged: _____
   Proposed name and college of new (merged) unit: _____

4. ☐ Proposal to terminate an existing unit:

   Current unit's name and status: _____

E. ☐ Other educational policy proposals (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

   Nature of the proposal: _____

Revised 10/2012
September 19, 2014

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the Graduate College to eliminate the Masters of Science in Human Factors degree program.

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

Kristi A. Kuntz
Associate Provost

Enclosures

C: J. Hart
September 19, 2014

Kristi Kuntz
Office of the Provost
207 Swanlund MC-304

Dear Kristi,

Enclosed please find the proposal to remove the Masters of Science in Human Factors Degree Program. The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved this proposal.

The proposal was first received at the Graduate College on August 26, 2014, and was reviewed by the Graduate College Program Subcommittee at their August 26, 2014. The proposal was then reviewed by the Executive Committee at their September 12, 2014 meeting.

The proposal was unanimously approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee at the September 12, 2014 meeting. I send this proposal to you now for further review.

Sincerely,

Siobhan Somerville
Associate Dean, Graduate College

c: A. Edwards
   A. Kopera
   A. McKinney
This version has my approval, thanks for making the changes.

Thanks for your offer to discuss, but back in those days we tried all kinds of ideas and couldn't find an administrative home for the program anywhere, or even support for reinventing it. My sense is that it's a case of best letting sleeping dogs lie.

Alex

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Revised version attached.

I listed myself as sponsor, and included a statement indicating that you confirmed the facts of the proposal. I also indicated that the PSYC courses were also in the process of being discontinued. I accepted all of your changes and made a couple of grammar/style changes.

With your approval, I'll get this filed appropriately.

Thanks,
-John