

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

## A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Department of Rehabilitation Medicine – Title Change for the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Medicine DegreeRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine to change the degree title from the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Medicine to the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science. This degree title change is effective immediately. The degree program is scheduled to be reviewed in the 2007-08 academic year along with other degree programs offered by the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine.

BACKGROUND

In March 2005, the Graduate School received a request from graduate faculty in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine seeking authority to change the name of the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Medicine to the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science.

The Master of Science in Rehabilitation Medicine is a post-professional program in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine. In 1966, the Board of Regents approved authorization for the Department to offer the degree program. It is designed for students with backgrounds in physical therapy, occupational therapy, prosthetics and orthotics, and medicine. The degree title change is being requested for two reasons. First, Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science is more inclusive than Master of Science in Rehabilitation Medicine, reflecting the various disciplines of the individuals who have earned this degree or are likely to do so in the future. Rehabilitation Medicine implies a degree based on the medical model, whereas Rehabilitation Science is congruent with both a medical model and community-based models of service delivery (e.g., early intervention or school system practice). Thus, since the focus of the degree is broader than the medical model, Rehabilitation Science is a better match with the degree offered.

Second, the Graduate School has initiated a review of the proposal submitted by the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine to offer a new PhD program in Rehabilitation Science. A Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science will articulate more logically with the proposed program. According to the Institute of Medicine Report, *Enabling America: Assessing the Role of Rehabilitation and Engineering* (Brandt & Pope, 1997), Rehabilitation Science and engineering should "be more widely recognized and accepted...." and "...should serve as the

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basis for developing new opportunities in multidisciplinary research and education" (p. 294).

The Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean and Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Education in the School of Medicine, and the Provost have reviewed and approved this recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the degree program title change if approval is granted by the Board of Regents.