VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities in the Center on Human Development and Disability

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the graduate faculty of the Interdisciplinary Developmental Disability Group to offer the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities, effective Autumn Quarter 2015. The graduate certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled for the 2020-2021 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

On January 21, 2015, the Graduate School received a full proposal from the Graduate Faculty in the Interdisciplinary Program Committee on Developmental Disabilities, located administratively in the Graduate School, requesting authority to offer the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities. The proposed timeline for implementation of the Graduate Certificate program is Autumn Quarter 2015.

The 15-credit Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities will prepare graduate students in health, behavioral, educational and related programs to acquire interdisciplinary training and skill development in developmental disabilities across the lifespan. The targeted population includes post-baccalaureate professionals, as well as federal and state level program staff who provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities, to gain advanced training in the field of developmental disabilities.

Extensive progress has been made in the field of developmental disabilities over the past few decades. The graduate certificate program will address the existing need for an integrated quality inter-professional workforce to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. An evolving disability-oriented system, at federal and state levels, is demanding new workplace skills and leadership. Over 90% of individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), survive their 20th birthdays. Thus, a workforce knowledgeable and competent to care for and support adults with developmental disabilities is critically needed.
A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities in the Center on Human Development and Disability (continued p. 2)

The graduate certificate curriculum is strengthened by the interdisciplinary graduate faculty group’s collaborative relationship with the UW Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (UW LEND), a long-standing federally funded graduate training program at the University of Washington.

The Graduate School Council met on March 5, 2015, to discuss the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities proposal. The Council recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation to approve the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities.