The Mission of the Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation (GPR) at the University of Iowa is to prepare qualified rehabilitation counseling professionals who will assist persons with disabilities and other individuals who have barriers in meeting their functional needs in the areas of employment, independent living, and personal or economic development. The Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation prepare these professionals to provide quality rehabilitation counseling services within an interdisciplinary and community-based context, serve as change agents and advocates for their clients, and sources of specialized knowledge and consultants for professionals, employers, and others in the communities that they serve.

From the Editor

Hello, Students,
Spring came in like a lion this year, with the April 13th tornado, but thankfully all faculty, staff and students (and our Spring Colloquium speaker, Randy Gray) came through it safely. Best of luck to the master’s students on comprehensive exams, and congratulations to graduating students!

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Students: Are you planning to sit for the CRC examination in 2005/2006? The following link will provide you with information on application dates, application forms, and study materials.

http://www.crccertification.com/

Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification
1835 Rohlwing Road, Suite E
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008 U.S.A.
847-394-2104

The APPLICATION DEADLINE is NOVEMBER 15 for the spring cycle and MAY 15 for the fall cycle.

Highlights from Spring and Summer 2006

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING:

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES (compiled by Quiteya Speights) Brandt)
Friday, April 21, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Fiedler-Dixon, Orville Townsend, Gillian Fox, Steve Wooderson, Bryan Dowd, Mike Townsend, Chris O’Hanlon.

STUDENT REPS PRESENT: Sara Johnston, Nicole Oxenford.

PROGRAM FACULTY PRESENT: Vilia Tarvydas, John Wadsworth, Jodi Saunders, Noel Estrada-Hernandez.

OTHER STUDENTS PRESENT: Quiteya Speights.

The meeting was called to order by Julie Fiedler-Dixon at 9:11. There was not a quorum; therefore, no motions could be made. At 9:20 there was a quorum present and the meeting was officially called to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: There was a date error on the agenda. Moved, seconded and approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Moved, seconded, and approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS
Rules of Order Revisions: Eda Holt made some changes and submitted it for the board’s discussion. There will be a 45-day window for board members to review the changes, approve or decline the changes, and approve the document. The noted changes are:

- Article II, Item B, should be taken out.
- Article II, Item C, RCE will be spelled out.
- Article III, Item C, will be removed.

Article VIII, including a standing committee is okay, but there do not have to be appointments to the committee unless there is a specific task assigned to the committee. Appointments will be made at the time the need for a standing committee arises.

Article VIII, Item D, there has been a change in the title ICATER. Wooderson suggested that punctuation be checked and be consistent throughout.

During the discussion on ad hoc committees, there was a suggestion that something needs to be added to the rules of order, the majority of members must be present but additional members can be present to meet committee needs.

Strategic Planning Task Force: Fox reported on the meeting that was held on Thursday, April 14, 2006. Randy Gray helped rewrite the vision and mission statements with faculty. Then he brought the proposed new statements to the task force. The task force outlined strengths and weaknesses. Fox stated that working under the leadership of Randy Gray really made the process smooth. The task force identified trends in the field as well. Chris O’Hanlon added that a strength of the graduate programs is not only the placement of the graduates but also the quality of the graduates. Therefore, strengths in this area should include: success of graduates, placement of graduates, flexibility of the graduate programs in providing relevant curriculum to students, and measurable outcomes of graduate programs. Other strengths include the diverse and committed advisory board, and the ability for graduates to obtain licensure and certification. In discussing current trends, the importance of including current trends (such as natural disaster planning) in the curriculum and discussing these trends with students to keep them apprised of trends in the field. It was proposed that the second bullet under trends be changed to incorporating more accountability into service delivery systems. There must be accountability for services that are being purchased by consumers. Orville Townsend stated that one must get the maximum from available resources. It was suggested that drugs should be added to characteristics of caseload, and that delivery of services should be added to business and industry. Wooderson stated that we may need some representatives from the business community. Dr. Tarvydas asked members to email her any strengths, challenges or any other ideas they might have about the strategic planning summary. She stated that she will be reformatting the new initiatives to fit into the University document. Before the fall meeting the
board members will receive a copy of the reformatting. Fox stated that Randy Gray asked the advisory board to assist with the implementation of the new initiatives.

Update on CORE Accreditation Preparation: Next year will be the renewal cycle for CORE. The master’s program is meeting the goals and objectives. The only thing needed is documentation. In October the agencies will have to return surveys and other paperwork for CORE. If the program does not have enough documentation, the site visit will not be scheduled. There are no concerns at this time except for documentation.

DEAN DAMICO:
The Dean discussed the strategic planning session summary. She stated that the College has experienced similar challenges in its strategic planning. She stated that the new initiatives are exciting, and the ICATER is impressive, and that the Institute on Ethics will be put into place. The program is doing fine especially with the addition on one new faculty member. The Dean noted that Drs. Wadsworth and Saunders received tenure this year, so beginning in the fall semester of 2006, they will be associate professors. She also discussed the tornado which occurred in April and that the College will be updating and fine-tuning its severe weather policies and procedures.

NEW BUSINESS
Member resignation: Julie Svec sent a letter to Dr. Tarvydas stating that she would no longer be able to serve as a member of the advisory board due to other commitments. Orville Townsend suggested that we should give Julie Svec some type of special recognition. Dr. Tarvydas agreed that something will be arranged and presented to Svec in the fall.

Board Member Recommendations: Replace Julie Svec, with someone from the community. O’Hanlon suggested someone from Rockwell Collins. Janice Menden’s name was suggested because she is from the private-for-profit sector. Fiedler-Dixon agreed that she would ask Kathryn Bennett. Townsend suggested that the Board should consider someone from out of town. Tarvydas stated that an alternate can be beneficial. Eda Holt’s idea was brought up to the board about adding a member to the advisory board from Red Cross. Tarvydas said that she would contact Mr. Tian from Red Cross. Dr. Jean Romas has volunteered to be on the board. Romas is Executive Director of Innovative Industries. Dr. Wadsworth stated that Rockwell Collins has people available to participate on boards. Fox stated that the Chamber of Commerce has a directory that individuals can look at to identify key leaders in different businesses. Bryan stated that his office might have contact with Wells Fargo in May. Tarvydas agreed that someone with a financial background would be beneficial. Tarvydas stated that the board will make investigations and bring resumes to the fall meeting or the
members can do it by email. If board members have other ideas about who to approach about serving on the Board, submit them to Dr. Tarvydas.

**Board Terms:** Every three years, members should be polled to see if they still want to sit on the board. Tarvydas will compile a document stating what year each member joined the board in order to send out letters in a timely manner to alert members that it is the end of their term and asking them if they’d like to continue to serve as board members. To be reappointed members must attend a certain number of board meetings. There are no limitations of terms.

**Fall Colloquium and Workshop:** The Fall 2005 Colloquium and Workshop were both well attended. The funds from the Workshop went to the Miller Scholarships.

**Upcoming events:** On September 22, MoronaryXX Community College is having an event that is focused on brain injury. There will also be extensive discussion on what is happening with Meth drug use. There is an opportunity for co-sponsorship. There was a question of whether the board wanted to look at this as a board function. The advisory board agreed that they want to take part in this event.

**COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**Bryan Dowd:** There is a new Employment Services Coordinator position. The individual will be creating job labs. There is a new website: [www.vetsuccess.gov](http://www.vetsuccess.gov), this website has features such as cover letters, resume, job postings, accessibility to job websites, etc.

**Stephen Wooderson:** This is not a good time for developing relationships in communities. There will be Governor and leadership meetings to talk about education. There is an emphasis on employee relationships. There will be sick leave buyouts coming in July. In the long term, the agency will be serving those most significantly disabled, and referred to the agency.

**Chris O’Hanlon:** A new 501C3 office has been established in Des Moines. A new executive director has been appointed. There is a Voices Summit scheduled for individuals with disabilities. The ICATER program will interest Independent Living Center Staff. The IL Center is now shifting to a SILC Center. A joint workshop with the Department of the Blind went well. This was the first time they worked in collaboration with the Department of the Blind and he likes seeing them work together.

**Orville Townsend:** The Diversity Committee is looking at retention of minority clients. They have recently formed a partnership with the University of Illinois in Chicago to look at this, and to work with students with mental illness.

**Gillian Fox:** $1.7 million has been cut from the MHDD budget. Brain injury services have been eliminated. The County has rewritten its service management plan; less dollars on services, caps on services, the amount of psychiatric medications that the county pays per client has been cut.
Evening Club program for LIFE Skills is going well. Jail diversion program has been implemented for drug assistance. There will be a burden on providers because dollars are cut tremendously.

Mike Townsend: They are not in a growth industry at the moment. There are open positions that will not be filled. He noted that there are oversights by the government that will continue and grow even more. A bill concerning e-waste that may be acted on today, if passed, will generate income for Goodwill. 277 created another funding stream for individuals with brain injury. Funding streams have also been created for those on the waiting list. Individuals will be eligible for resource facilitation; they will be looking for staff for those positions. Those who don’t qualify for these services will be able to receive these resources.

UI-ARCA REPORT

Sara Johnston, the doc student representative, gave the report. The attendance to the meetings has doubled since last year, and there are currently about 18 members. The members are active in the community, and several work at LIFE Skills Evening Club. The upcoming elections are Tuesday. The first UI-ARCA Chinese New Year Party was a success. There are many UI-ARCA members who are participating in the NAMI walk in May. The new UIARCA T-shirts will be ready by summer. The graphic on the t-shirt was designed by two new UI-ARCA members, Jill Johnson and Jamie McLaughlin.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Dr. Tarvydas announced that Dr. Maki sends his regards in his absence.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Program Restructuring: The organizational chart was discussed. Dr. Maki is no longer teaching classes due to his additional duties with ICATER. Dr. Wadsworth is overseeing the master’s program and Dr. Saunders is overlooking the doctoral program. Dr. Tarvydas will continue as Program Coordinator as well as continue serving on the advisory board. Dr. Saunders will continue to oversee the master’s clinical program placements.

Spring Colloquium Report: The speaker was Randy Gray, who covered the business aspect of rehabilitation, the national picture, and some of the trends. There were over 2 dozen individuals in attendance and 13 evaluation forms were completed. The colloquium was taped, and will be available in VHS format for viewing by IVRS and other agencies upon request.

Master’s Program and Curriculum Report: Dr. Wadsworth reported that there will be 36 master’s students, which is an increase of 10. There are 11 students graduating in the spring, and out of those students 7 are RSA scholars. There are several students from Taiwan. The Taiwanese government pays for their education. Dr. Tarvydas will be teaching a new course next spring, Psychiatric Disorders and Interventions. The RSA annual
performance report states that all performance objectives are being met. Money will go directly to students in each department according to the 2008 grant. This means that the University will not have to track each individual graduate. The number of applications has decreased. Drs. Tarvydas and Cottone have just completed their 3rd edition of their book.

Doctoral Program: Dr. Saunders reported that there will be three graduates in 2005. There are currently 10 doctoral students. The program lost 2 doctoral students in the past year: one left for personal reasons, and one student passed away. The program has admitted four doctoral students; three of the four students have accepted. Admission may be up to six students this year. There have been two additional courses added this year, a doctoral seminar in rehabilitation research and XX.

Clinical Coordinator Update: Dr. Saunders reported that master’s students are currently placed at ASAA, Oakdale, Employment Plus, VA, WRAC, and others. Site information will be updated. More sites in the private rehab area are needed.

Future RSA Long Term Training Grant: The doctoral grant proposal was not successful. Dr. Saunders will write the next grant for the next cycle. The University of Iowa Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation continues to be rated # 3 in the nation by US News and World Report.

Other Issues: Dr. Tarvydas reported that building accessibility continues to be an issue, especially in light of the recent tornado, including evacuation chairs in case of emergency, and the evacuation of students and faculty with disabilities. It was reported that each department has a budget and budgets according to priorities. The statement on accessibility needs to be made stronger than a question, and there is a need for letters from members of the community on this issue, as opposed to just advocacy on the part of the faculty.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

The concerns from last semester regarding scheduling department events during times convenient for students (e.g., not during class time) were addressed by the faculty. As a result, there were more students in attendance at the Spring 2006 Colloquium. Students noted a need for training, such as a workshop or seminar, on where to look for the most recent information about funding. The students noted that the faculty should be commended for their response to the request for more information on the CRC and the comps exams. Students said they felt prepared for the CRC and comps exams. Students said they were satisfied with the work of the writing coach, and that this resource is really beneficial. There is a need for students to get out into the community and learn more as opposed to simply learning from the “Ivory Tower.”

1:00 p.m.  ADJOURNMENT
SPRING COLLOQUIUM

UI-ARCA CHINESE NEW YEAR

SUMMER PARTY FOR NEW STUDENTS

Alumni News