

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

UW Tacoma Milgard School of Business – Establishment of the Master of Accounting Degree ProgramRECOMMENDED 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 Milgard School of Business at the University of Washington, Tacoma to offer the Master of Accounting (MAcc) degree program, effective immediately. The degree program will have provisional status with a review to be conducted by the Graduate School in the 2016-2017 academic year.

BACKGROUND

On April 6, 2011, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) approved the Planning Notification of Intent (PNOI) from the Milgard School of Business at the University of Washington, Tacoma to develop a proposal to offer a new Master of Accounting degree program.

On April 26, 2011, the Graduate School received the proposal from the graduate faculty of the Milgard School of Business requesting authority to offer the Master of Accounting degree program. The program will prepare students for careers as professional accountants in public practice, industry, financial institutions, government or nonprofit organizations. A unique feature of the 45 credit program curriculum is the inclusion of social reporting, forensic accounting, and international accounting--areas reflecting current and emerging priorities and trends in the business world. Projected enrollment is 25 FTE in the first year with 35 FTE by 2016.

The Master of Accounting proposal was evaluated by faculty with expertise in the field from accounting departments at the C. T. Bauer College of Business, University of Houston, and the College of Business at the University of Cincinnati. Both faculty recommended approval of the degree program. They noted the coherent curriculum design with its core and specialty areas is appropriate in both breadth and depth. The curriculum is innovative in the areas of corporate social reporting and the audit of corporate social reports, reporting on sustainability of performance and the Global Reporting Initiative, forensic accounting, and international accounting.

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On June 2, 2011, the Graduate School Council considered the Master of Accounting program and recommended unanimously that the proposal be forwarded to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and approval.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board, on September 29, 2011, approved the proposal for the Master of Accounting degree program to be offered by the Milgard School of Business at the University of Washington, Tacoma. The HECB noted the program would: support the Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education and the University's mission; use multiple diversity-enhancing strategies; respond to employer, student, and community demand at a reasonable cost without duplicating existing programs; the external evaluators supported approval of the program; and it would be an extension of the existing undergraduate accounting program.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Washington, Tacoma, and the Provost have reviewed and approved this recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents approval of the Master of Accounting degree program.