DATE: April 25, 2005

TO: Planning and Review Committee

FROM: John Wesolek, Dean of College of Human Development
       Judy Jax, Dean of School of Education

SUBJECT: Response to B.S. in Vocational Rehabilitation Program Review

The following is a response to the recommendations made in the PRC’s consultant report for the B.S. in Vocational Rehabilitation program.

Recommendations for the Program Director

1. Continue the current efforts to eliminate unnecessary course overlap and to help students understand the reasons for necessary course overlap, especially with courses like Psychometric Testing and Evaluation, as well as Caseload Management and Introduction to Vocational Rehabilitation.

   Response:
   The dean and associate dean will meet with the program director on a periodic basis to ensure faculty in the Department of Rehabilitation and Counseling are working to eliminate course overlap. This will be reviewed with special attention given to orient new positions who teach courses where the overlap perception exists.

2. Assist the special education concentration students and faculty in making the transition to the new DPI standards.

   Response:
   The Dean of the School of Education and special education program director will be contacted to determine whether the DPI standards are being effectively communicated to students taking the Special Education concentration in the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

3. Continue to support new faculty to understand the program and advisement process.

   Response:
   The dean’s office will continue to support the program director to ensure that faculty are continually updated about the program and to ensure that university-wide policy changes are communicated to students so they will receive the best possible advisement.

4. Since it is unlikely that any additional new courses will be added to the Criminal Justice concentration, it is recommended that continued emphasis be placed on advising students about the rehabilitation rather than enforcement emphasis in this concentration.

   Response:
   The dean will meet with the program director to evaluate progress in orienting Criminal Justice students to the overall purpose and outcomes of the vocational rehabilitation program. Although no new courses are to be developed, students who select the Criminal Justice concentration must be well versed and effective in providing a strong rehabilitation orientation to their future career roles. This is necessary because there seems to be less emphasis on the rehabilitation side of this process and more attention to understanding laws and enforcing punitive interventions with this population.
5. Identify and modify areas in the curriculum where racial equity can be emphasized.

Response:
The dean’s office will monitor course revisions to ensure diversity issues and multi-cultural orientations to content are included and emphasized.

Recommendation for the Chair of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department

1. Assist the program director as needed to provide resources that will permit the program to be registered with the Undergraduate Rehabilitation Registry.

Response:
The chair and program director were notified that the college will provide funds to enable the undergraduate program to be listed in the CORE Registry beginning next academic year 2005-06.

Recommendation for the Dean, College of Human Development

1. Identify and secure funding-based opportunities that can assist the B.S. Vocational Rehabilitation program with the updating of its lab-based facilities as well as staffing of such areas. Also support the updating and presentation of materials on the program webpage.

Response:
Funds to update laboratories predominantly used by the undergraduate program were provided in Spring 2005. These were in addition to laboratory modernization dollars provided by the university.

The college will review the webpage to ensure that it is current and that support is provided to keep it updated for all students and interested prospects.

Recommendation for the Dean, School of Education

1. Work with the program director of the B.S. in Vocational Rehabilitation program to assist the special education students and faculty in making the transition to the new DPI standards.

Response:
Dr. Amy Gillett is the program director for the new Special Education: Cross Categorical certification program. She also works with the students who have the Special Education concentration in the B.S. in Vocational Rehabilitation program. She and the School of Education Coordinating Chair will work with the B.S. in Vocational Rehabilitation program director, students and faculty in transitioning to the DPI34 Department of Public Instruction standards. These standards became effective August 31, 2004 and are currently being implemented.