



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

The Graduate School

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June 8, 2006

To: Phyllis Wise, Provost
Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean
Melissa Austin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

RE: Review of Global Trade, Transportation, and Logistics Studies (GTTL) Graduate Certificate Program

At its meeting of May 18, 2006, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the GTTL Graduate Certificate Program (Mark Haselkorn, Committee Chair and Professor, Technical Communications, and Zelda Zabinsky, Professor, Industrial Engineering and Director of the Air Traffic Management Research Group), and with Program representatives Greg Shelton (Director of the GTTL Program), Tom Schmitt (Associate Professor, School of Business Administration and former GTTL Director), Joe Mahoney (Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering) and Doug Fleming (Professor Emeritus, Geography). The Program was approved by the Board of Regents in November, 1996, and this was its first review. This review committee, including its outside member, held its formal on-site review on November 28 and 29, 2005.

The review committee noted that the GTTL Graduate Certificate Program was among the first interdisciplinary certificate programs approved by the Graduate School under Memorandum No. 5. GTTL has accomplished a great deal in creating a certificate program of regional importance that can complement a graduate student's primary degree. The program is well-received by students, about a third of whom are in Engineering. The GTTL program does not have a research mission since relevant research centers already exist at UW, but it does have an active advisory board consisting of industry representatives.

The committee reported that the program was created by graduate faculty whose participation has slipped away since its approval. Specifically, of the original 24 faculty members, only the former Director still actively participates in the program. The current

Director is a staff member and Affiliate Instructor in Civil & Environmental Engineering, but does not hold a primary faculty appointment and is not a member of the Graduate Faculty. Equally troubling to the committee and the Graduate Council, there does not appear to be a significant influx of new faculty willing to contribute to the program. As a result, when GTTL faced the challenge of developing and offering a much needed course in aviation, it had to turn to outside consultants rather than drawing from the UW faculty ranks. Similarly, the GTTL program has needed to develop two different versions of one of its core courses and provide supplemental instructional funds to support it because they have been unable to develop a more integrated approach with deans and departmental chairs in contributing programs. While it may well be true, as the GTTL Program Director notes, that substantial numbers of faculty participate on an informal basis, the lack of formal involvement creates structural problems that make the offering of a coherent and cost effective curriculum problematic. While the review committee noted that many of the infrastructure and faculty release time issues plaguing GTTL are illustrative of UW's difficulties in fostering interdisciplinary programs in general, they appear to be more pronounced for this program than for many others.

During Council discussion, there was consensus that all Graduate Programs, including this one, must be directed by Graduate Faculty members. The Council emphasized the importance of generating increased faculty involvement in the GTTL program. The Council concurred with the view expressed by one of the retired GTTL faculty members who attended the deliberation that the program has significant student demand and corporate support, and that it is remarkably well suited to the needs of this region on trade relations. However, the Council also concurred with the review committee's recommendations that the GTTL Program:

- 1) Identify a graduate faculty member to direct the certificate program;
- 2) Reconfigure the program's steering committee.

Both of these steps need to be completed and reported to the Graduate School within 2 years (by June 1, 2008). If these steps are accomplished, the Program will be asked to develop a strategic plan that will be reviewed five years from now, during the 2010-2011 academic year. If, after two years, the Program is unable to identify appropriate faculty leadership, the Council recommends dissolution of the Program. The Graduate School concurs with this recommendation.

For more detailed information on the review of this program, please see the Review Committee's written report, submitted on April, 2006, and the response from the Director, submitted in May, 2006.

c: Gregory Shelton, GTTL Director
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School
Adam Grupp, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
GTTL Program Review Committee
Graduate School Council