Proposal for UNLV Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs

Spring 2018

Authored by the Top Tier RSCA Interdisciplinary Studies Working Group, 2016 - 2017 & 2017 - 2018

Reviewed by the Graduate Council & Graduate Executive Committee & Dean, Graduate College

Consistent with the recommendations of our two existing IDGPs:

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences & Radiochemistry Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programs

I. Introduction¹

Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs (IDGP) are a growing part of graduate education at the doctoral level at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a thriving part of graduate communities on most top tier campuses. They are also consistent with federal agency funding priorities to support multi- and interdisciplinary research teams. Graduate programs are not required for such funding opportunities, but they often help develop and strengthen interdisciplinary faculty teams, research, and collaboration.

IDGPs are graduate programs that cross departments, schools, and/or Colleges, with participating faculty from multiple disciplines. For the purposes of this proposal, IDGPs that cross Colleges will be structured as per the guidelines below; IDGPs that cross departments and/or schools may opt to use this model but are not required to do so. Each IDGP has its own affiliated faculty, a program director, and an executive committee who together manage the graduate program. There are no formal tenure-track lines in IDGPs, but rather IDGP faculty members are drawn from existing units/departments where their faculty line is housed, and they join the IDGP to teach courses and mentor graduate students.

II. Administrative Structure and Overview

a. IDGPs are structurally housed (i.e. build in MyUNLV, etc.) in and affiliated with the Graduate

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consist of at least two IDGP graduate faculty members plus the Program Director (or three total with the Program Director to be selected later), but not more than ten members total, all of whom are elected by IDGP faculty, appointed by the Program Director of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program, or selected by the Governing Board, depending on the IDGP Bylaws. Executive Committee members can be: academic faculty in the IDGP and/or Chairs from participating academic units. Committee members will serve for a fixed time period, as stipulated in the IDGP Bylaws. Members should rotate off the EC in a staggered way so that, once established, the Executive Committee has some members leave and new members join the gered way so the

d. The IDGP should work with the Governing Board to negotiate program funding based on ROI, as appropriate and consistent with prevailing campus approaches to program monetization.

VI. Guidelines for the Establishment of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs

To establish an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program, a proposal must be prepared by the interested graduate faculty. The process follows the current new program procedure. For additional information, please see the <u>Graduate College Curriculum Changes</u> website and the <u>Academic Program Actions & Processes</u> website.

VII. Program Bylaws

To facilitate the administration of an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program, program bylaws and guidelines must be developed. These program bylaws should include a mission statement. In addition, the following items may be included in the program bylaws. At a minimum, these ideas should be discussed to determine if they are appropriate for the particular IDGP.

- a. Broad policy and program management issues
- b. Bection of the Program Director, including the method of election and duration of term
- c. Evaluation of the Program Director
- d. Faculty membership in the IDGP and periodic review of such faculty for continued participation
- e. Bection of Executive Committee members, including the method of election and duration of term
- f. Annual evaluation input on participating faculty that would be provided to the appropriate department chairs/college deans. These evaluations should be based upon the negotiated role statement and subsequent faculty time allocation to the IDGP.
- g. Definition of any standing, ad hoc, or use
- h. Faculty meetings, including voting membership, quoTmum0 612 72 reW*nhe ISEP the

- 4. Fundraising opportunities
- 5. Resource allocation, including graduate teaching and research assistantships
- 6. Tenure and promotion processes that reflect graduate faculty participation in IDGPs
- IX. Graduate Students: Admissions, Evaluations, and Monitoring Admissions Policies
 - a. Student Admissions:
 - i. Each IDGP will have a committee that includes participating IDGP graduate faculty whose function will be to review applicants and recommend students for admission to the IDGP using established best practices for graduate admissions. The charge of these committees will be to maintain the highest standards of academic quality and adherence to t
 - ii. Interdisciplinary graduate programs should provide an orientation for new students (this is in addition to the Graduate College New Student Orientation and New Graduate Assistant Orientation) that focuses specifically on the program. Orientations should be held each semester that the IDGP admits new students.
 - b. Student Evaluations
 - i. To ensure timely progression through the graduate program, students shall undergo