Title of Program/Certificate, etc: Health Care Interpreter Certificate Program

Level (Masters/Ph.D.):

Please Indicate: ______ Program  ____ X__ Certificate _______ Concentration _______ Track

Description of the change in the certificate, concentration or degree program:
The CNHS requests deletion of the Certificate: Health Care Interpreter. Following discussion with GMU faculty, Inova Health Care System, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, it was decided that the correct academic level for this certificate program is at the 100-200 level. It was decided that the academic unit to offer this certificate was the Department of Communications. It was determined that Dr. Kreps will assign a faculty to work with Inova to assure the program will begin in Spring 2005. It was agreed upon with Dr. Kreps and Dr. Dawson that as this undergraduate program progresses that the CNHS will become co-partners in developing a Masters Degree.

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by these. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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Submitted by: _______________________________ Email: __________
Graduate Council approval: ___________________________ Date: __________
Graduate Council representative: ____________________ Date: __________
Provost Office representative: ______________________ Date: __________
Deletion of the Health Care Interpreter Certificate Program Previously Approved by the Graduate Council as a Certificate Program in the College of Nursing and Health Science

BACKGROUND: In November 2003, the College of Nursing and Health Science (CNHS) was approached by Inova hospital to become an “Education Partner” in a Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) initiative, Hablamos Juntos. The purpose of this initiative was to educate health care interpreters by offering a Health Care Interpreter Certificate at the university level, most specifically, the graduate level. This academic level was identified because of the high level of education in the Northern Virginia area, the 140 dialects of language within this region and the level of complexity of the health care systems. Providing interpreter services for each patient has been an unfunded federal mandate for several years, therefore the RWJ initiative was welcomed. This initiative was to be mirrored after a successful program that has been implemented at the City College of San Francisco. The course descriptions, objectives and teaching material were to be centralized for the use of all RWJ grantees. A training session at the City College of San Francisco was planned for April 2004. All teaching materials and syllabus would be given to the instructors at that time. RWJ directed the grantees (in this case Inova Health Care System) to begin implementation no later than fall 2004.

DISCUSSION: A telephone conference was held in the CNHS in January with the grantee, Inova Health Care System, the CNHS Acting Dean, Assist Dean for Graduate Nursing, Ellen Dawson, PI for this project within the CNHS and the Director RWJ National Program Office, Hablamos Juntos. One of the concerns of the CNHS was clarity as to ownership of the curriculum. We sought assurances that RWJ had the authority to grant permission to use the course description, objectives and teaching materials and assurances that this program could not be offered at different academic levels within our region. We were assured by the Director, that RWJ would have ownership and that the curriculum etc. would be in public domain for the use of the grantees.

ACTION: The CNHS proceeded, directed by the above information, with the following steps:
- February 2004: Identified Masters prepared adjunct instructor with background in health care interpreter training.
- March 2004: CNHS Graduate Curriculum approved a 15 credit Graduate Certificate program for Health Care Interpreter.
- April 2004: CNHS Faculty Organization Approved the Certificate
- April 2004: Sent future instructor to San Francisco for one-week training session at City College of San Francisco. At the end of the week, the teaching materials were not ready for distribution. Instructors were sent home with a few handouts and a promise that materials were forthcoming.
- May 2004: University Graduate Council Approved the Certificate Program.
- June 2004: Materials from City College not adequate. Although the course objectives were at a very high level the outlines and meager teaching materials did not represent these objectives.
- June 2004: Meeting with Inova revealed that Kaiser, who employs the author of the original training program from City College of San Francisco, was requesting that their employees in Virginia be allowed to take this course and they further requested the certificate be offered at the 100-200 level to target more of their employees.
- June 2004: E. Dawson sent an email requesting clarity of ownership and requesting completed teaching materials as promised. A subsequent telephone conference was held with Inova, Director, RWJ Home Office of Hablamos Juntos and CNHS to clarify the ownership. Most specifically to be assured that what we are offering at the graduate level could not be offered at the community college level within our region. The answer we received was that RWJ was still negotiating with the author for ownership.
- August 2004: Without a definitive answer from the Home Office an assumption of ownership was made; it was theorize by E. Dawson that RWJ had acquired licensure to use the materials but that ownership belonged to City College of San Francisco, most specifically the author of the materials. At this time it was decided that CNHS could not offer this certificate at the level first planned and that it should be offered at the 100-200 level with the goal of structuring a credible certificate
program, enhancing the curriculum and building toward a graduate degree in Health Care Interpreter Services and Communications.

- September 2004: This above assumption was confirmed in a telephone call with Director, Home Office of Hablamos Juntos.
- September 2004: E. Dawson contacted Dr. Gary Kreps, Chair Department of Communications at George Mason University to collaborate on this initiative

RECOMMENDATIONS:
1. Dr. Kreps, Dr. Dawson and the Inova RWJ Grantees met at Inova on Thursday, September 23, 2004. It was decided that the correct academic level for this certificate program is at the 100-200 level.
2. It was decided that the academic unit to offer this certificate was the Department of Communications
3. It was determined that Dr. Kreps will assign a faculty to work with Inova to assure the program will begin in Spring 2005
4. It was agreed upon with Dr. Kreps and Dr. Dawson that as this undergraduate program progresses that the CNHS will become co-partners in developing a Masters Degree.
5. It is recommended that the Health Care Interpreter Graduate Certificate be removed from the CNHS inventory.