

Report to the Dean & Faculty Senate: Certificate, Entrepreneurship

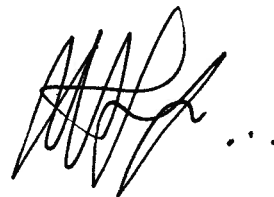
Matthew D. Mingus
Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Chair

The University of New Mexico – Gallup’s Certificate program in Entrepreneurship was recently reviewed at the 23 October 2015 meeting of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee. In a unanimous decision, and after carefully examining the material submitted by the Division of Business & Applied Technology, **the Committee decided not to approve the submitted program review and recommends that the Certificate program in Entrepreneurship be discontinued.**

During our meeting, several committee members commented on the inadequate condition of the submitted program review. Document 1, in particular, was found to be seriously flawed. In the future, the Committee hopes that Division Chairs will take this process seriously enough to provide us with (and appropriately organize) all of the information requested in the “Program Review Instrument”. For more detailed information concerning the Committee’s evaluation of the submitted materials, please contact the Dean’s office and request a summary of our compiled rubric sheets regarding this program.

Committee members questioned the value of having a separate Certificate program in Entrepreneurship when our campus offers an associate’s degree in Business Administration. This concern was made even clearer after reviewing the abysmal completion rate of this program. For a program to produce only two graduates in nine years is wholly unacceptable. Even since the program was reworked into its current form – back in 2011 – it has only produced a single graduate. Committee members were also troubled by the qualifications (or perceived lack thereof) of this certificate program’s part-time faculty members, and were not convinced that this program provides the skills necessary for students to attain employment after graduation (let alone start a business). At least a few committee members argued that the courses and skills offered through this program would be better suited as part of workforce development, rather than as part of our academic course offerings.

While the Committee recognizes the importance of small businesses to the economy of our community, we are not convinced that the Certificate in Entrepreneurship adds to the value of our institution or meets the needs of our students. Therefore, we recommend an immediate “teach out” of the program.



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