I. Approval of November 18 Meeting Minutes

II. Course/Program Additions, Modifications, Deletions:

Action Items:

   A) College of Education

      1) Department of Communication Sciences and Professional Counseling

         a) CEPD - 9151 - Doctoral Independent Study

      Originator: Julia Whisenhunt

      Request: Add Course

      Rationale: At present, there is no doctoral level independent study course for Professional Counseling students. As such, when an independent study course is needed to support students' academic progress, the faculty member must use CEPD 7181 and request a special substitution to allow the course to count towards the Ed.D. in Professional Counseling and Supervision. The addition of this course should rectify those issues and allow for seamless registration for doctoral-level independent study courses and application of the course to the respective program of study.

         The addition of this course will not affect the program evaluation system, as this course will not be used as a regular course offering. Rather, CEPD 9151 will be used to allow students to pursue advanced counseling knowledge through elective studies.

Information Items:

   A) College of Education

      1) Department of Leadership, Research, and School Improvement

         a) Educational Leadership, M.Ed.

      Originator: Andrew Nixon

Request: Delete Program

Rationale: There are no students in the program. Academic affairs requested this action.

   B) College of Social Sciences

1) Department of Sociology

Originator: Emily McKendry-Smith

Request: Revise Program

Rationale: The sociology department is proposing changes to the "Admission" section of the catalog description for the MA in Sociology. The changes proposed are:
- Change the wording at the beginning of the section describing the admission process
- Remove requirement that applicants take the GRE and all language regarding the GRE
- Implement a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 for admission to the MA
- Change the wording describing applicants' 750 word essays
- Request a resume or curriculum vitae from applicants
- Add language noting that applicants may be admitted provisionally
- Change the wording directing applicants to the website for further information

Justifications:
- The new language describing the admissions process will enhance applicants' understanding of how admissions decisions are made, which we believe will help them in making the strongest possible application.
- The Sociology Department does not believe that the GRE is a good predictor of success in in graduate study. Many similar programs do not require the GRE for admissions, including programs in this region such as University of Alabama-Birmingham's MA in Sociology.
- The Sociology Department believes that undergraduate GPA is likely to be a useful predictor of success in graduate study. Adding a minimum GPA brings us in line with other graduate programs in COSS which all have minimum GPA requirements.
- The previous language asked applicants to write an "intellectual autobiography." We have changed this to "personal statement," a commonly-used term that applicants are more likely to be familiar with. We have also added additional wording specifying issues that should be addressed in the personal statement.
- The Sociology department believes that a resume/cv will provide important context for making admissions decisions. Applicants' work histories are not included anywhere else in the application.
- The previous admissions language made no mention of provisional admissions. Including language about this will let applicants know that this is a possibility.
- Applicants are being directed to a website that contains multiple tabs. The revised language informs applicants that in addition to going to the website, they must visit the "Admissions" tab.

C) Tanner Health System School of Nursing

1) Doctorate in Nursing Education

Originator: Susan Welch

Request: Revise Program

Rationale: To update the EdD program admission criteria based upon relevancy and to also assist with program recruitment. (See changes_marked up copy)

2) Master of Science in Nursing, post-master's certificate - all role options

Originator: Susan Welch

Request: Revise Program

Rationale: To update the MSN program post-master's certificate admission criteria based upon relevancy and to also assist with program recruitment.

3) Masters of Science in Nursing - all role options

Originator: Susan Welch

Request: Revise Program

Rationale: To update the MSN program post-master's certificate admission criteria based upon relevancy and to also assist with program recruitment.