

October 12, 2011

To: Faculty Senate

From: 
Beverly K. Hartline

Subject: Clinical Psychology Termination Proposal

At its meeting on May 9, 2011, Graduate Council voted 11-1 to recommend, moved and seconded to the Senate, termination of the Clinical Psychology Master's Program. This recommendation was submitted to the Senate for action at the May meeting, which lacked a quorum. I presented it yesterday at the Faculty Senate meeting, which discussed it and then tabled it for consideration at the November meeting.

The clinical psychology master's program, at the initiative of its faculty, has not been accepting students subsequent to Fall 2008. Their reasons included their concern (1) that the Clinical Psychology program could not ethically continue to be offered without significant institutional support which it had not received for several years; (2) and it has been a long-running program that has produced many highly accomplished graduates. The curriculum committee in the College of Arts and Sciences recommended continuing the program in suspension until 2015. Extensive discussion in Graduate Council covered demand for clinical psychologists, especially ones from underrepresented minority groups; the fact that the professional credential required today for licensure in DC and many other states (though not all) is a doctorate; and the merits of re-establishing or building on a dormant and potentially out-dated program versus initiating a new one, when the time was right. Whether or not a master's program is in place, initiation of a doctoral program will require action through the entirety of the University's academic review processes, culminating with action by the Board of Trustees. These considerations led the Graduate Council to its voted recommendation for termination.

Cc: Benson Cooke