Academic and Personnel Committee: Consideration of New Degree Proposals

University of Texas at Tyler

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Consideration of New Degree Proposals

REPORT: The staff has recommended to the Academic and Personnel Committee three new undergraduate programs and one new graduate program. These programs, as shown in Attachments 1, 2, 3, and 4, are as follows:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Art
- Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Music
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology
- Master of Science Degree in Psychology

Each of these degree programs has been developed by the faculty and staff in response to specific needs and each is included in the Texas Eastern University Role and Scope Study presented to the Board of Regents at the January 21 Board meeting. A brief description of each program follows:

1. Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Art.

The Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in art is currently offered at Texas Eastern University. The Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree permits the student a greater degree of concentration in the field of art. Surveys of art students at the University indicate a high degree of interest in the B.F.A. Degree. This new degree can be implemented with no significant additional cost and with only nominal additions to the course offerings of the art department. The Bachelor of Arts Degree is to be retained for those students who prefer the broader program of liberal arts study.

2. Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Music.

The rationale for addition of this program parallels that of the B.F.A. Degree in art. Student preferences indicate a high level of interest in the more concentrated degree. The new program can be implemented at no significant additional cost for faculty or equipment. The Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in music is to be retained for students who prefer the broader program of liberal arts study.

3. Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology.

This degree program is proposed as the first of a cluster of related programs in the technology area. As such, it represents a significant broadening of the curriculums at Texas Eastern University. This
new program has been developed in response to a survey of East Texas area industries. These industries indicate a great need for people with leadership skills who can assume supervisory roles. Hence employment opportunities appear to be exceptionally good. Although the proposed program is not an inverted degree program, it offers additional opportunities for baccalaureate study for community/junior college students from technical backgrounds.

4. Master of Science Degree in Psychology.

This program also has been developed in response to numerous requests. The triple options of mental health, school psychology and college teaching offer the student an excellent choice in field of concentration. The emphasis on gerontology in the mental health area represents a significant new area of study related to a growing need in East Texas and elsewhere. Graduates of this program should find ready opportunities for employment. Since virtually all of the courses in the new degree program are already offered at Texas Eastern University, the addition of the proposed program will require only a nominal increase in operating costs.