

DATE: January 26, 2006

SUBJECT: Post Approval Monitoring Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In accordance with the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002, new academic programs approved by the Commission must be monitored following their initial approval. Programs meeting benchmarks remain in the monitoring cycle of five years at the baccalaureate level and above and three years for pre-baccalaureate programs following the approval.

In the July commission meeting of each year, staff provides the Post Approval Monitoring Reports for programs that are within the three or five year monitoring cycle, and in January reports on programs that failed to reach benchmarks, as approved. The criteria for reviewing programs are based on goals established in the approved program proposal. The goals include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation ratios, program cost, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance, and other goals set by the institution and agreed upon by the governing boards and Commission staff.

If deficiencies are noted during the monitoring cycle, THEC requests information to explain the deficiencies and specific plans (Program Productivity Plans) for corrective action or recommend programs for termination. Staff also may choose to extend the monitoring period, if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.

PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY PLANS

There are various reasons why programs do not meet projected benchmarks. The implementation of programs can be delayed due to difficulty of hiring faculty, inadequate recruitment practices, changes in labor market demands, or other issues not within the control of the institution. Institutions are therefore required to submit Program Productivity Plans (PPP) to indicate the strategies and plans for correcting deficiencies, plans for termination, or to request an extension of time in the monitoring period.

Program Productivity Plans and the Post Approval Monitoring Reports have been combined and are to be submitted to THEC by May 15, 2006, and will be reported at the July meeting. The lists and reporting forms will be provided to respective boards upon approval of this report.

Staff recommends termination of the following programs:

- Dyersburg State Community College – Industrial Mechanisms Dyersburg, Technical Certificate. This program was approved in 2002 in response to requests from the Goodyear Tire Company, but due to employee lay-offs the program was never implemented.
- Dyersburg State Community College - Industrial Welding, Technical Certificate. This program was approved in 2002 in response to requests from the Goodyear Tire Company, but due to employee lay-offs the program was never implemented.
- Pellissippi State Technical Community College – Social Services, A.A.S. This program was approved in 2002, but has never been implemented.
- Roane State Community College – Technical Communications, A.A.S. This program was approved in 2002 and has not met projections.
- Southwest Tennessee Community College – Arts and Science, Academic Certificate. Staff recommended termination in January 2004; however the college requested an extension of one year to address program deficiencies. The extension ended July 2005 and there have been no gains in attaining benchmarks.
- Walters State Community College – Social Services, A.A.S. – This program was approved in 2002 but has never been implemented.

The following program has been recommended for termination by TBR:

- Motlow State Community College – Computer Aided Design, Certificate, effective August 2005

Program Productivity Plans are required for the following programs that did not meet approved benchmarks:

Pre-Baccalaureate Programs

- Nashville State Technical Community College -Technical Communications, Certificate
- Nashville State Technical Community College - Web Page Authoring, Certificate
- Southwest Tennessee Community College – Social Services, A.A.S.
- Volunteer State Community College – Social Services, A.A.S.
- Volunteer State Community College - Desktop Publishing- Academic Certificate

Graduate Programs

- Tennessee State University– Computer & Info Systems Eng, Ph.D.
- University of Memphis – Women’s Studies, M.A.
- University of Memphis – International MBA