IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed:
1) Bachelor of Science in Tourism, Convention, and Event Management, with an Emphasis in Sports Management
2) Master of Science in Informatics, Sports Analytics Specialization

Stated Rationale:

The BS and MS are existing degrees and Sports Analytics is a new specialization within the MS. By designing a curriculum that transitions seamlessly from the BS in Tourism, Convention, and Event Management to the MS in Informatics, it is expected that the program will graduate students who meet all of the requirements for both degrees. The integrated degree program is also expected to enhance student recruitment and retention for both Schools. The proposed program is unique and distinctive compared with offerings at other institutions.

Summary of Proposal:

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

   Since both the BS and MS degrees currently exist, the goals of the combined degrees are well-defined focusing on a path to graduate study in analytics as applied to the field of sports. The result for students is a reduction of eight hours of undergraduate electives (138 to 130), with those hours replaced with graduate courses. The result of the BS of 120 hours plus the MS of 30 hours is achievable for a total of 150 hours for the combined degrees.

   In reviewing the course listings and stated requirement by area, the combined degree total hour requirement is 138. The semester-by-semester course and hour totals equal 138, the same totals listed by area of study. Twelve of the 16 elective course credits for the BS are replaced with graduate coursework in Informatics.

2. Is the program academically sound?

   The proposal offers a clearly stated curriculum for each degree, plus a specific plan for selecting students for the MS during the seventh semester of BS studies. A reasonable rationale was been supplied to justify the plan for select students in the BS program.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this program without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

   "Because the program uses existing courses, faculty, and facilities, no additional resources are required." This statement was supported within the outline of the proposal. With only four to five student per year entering the MS,

the increase in graduate enrollment should not require additional faculty as stated.

4. <u>Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?</u>
      No overlap was identified within the proposal. Care should be taken in coordination between the two Schools since two admissions processes are required for the students. To effectively advise a student in a dual-degree program, two academic advisors (one undergraduate and one graduate advisor) need clear guidelines. These seem to be logical in the proposal. No other School at IUPUI would be impacted.

5. <u>My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal</u>
      The proposal and stated outcomes are clear for students interested in the BS/MS combination.   I recommend that the Graduate Affairs Committee approve the plan with no changes.

      The only concern this reviewer holds in the management of the transition of students between Schools and degrees. This statement appears on page 11 of the document:

The Graduate Committee will review each student's performance each semester after they are conditionally admitted to the integrated-degree program.

Following the conditional admission, the student's performance will be assessed by the Graduate Admissions Committee at the end of each semester to ensure that the student's performance is at the level expected for traditional MS students in the Informatics graduate program and the grades in each master's course in the BS plan of study are B– or higher.

Students will receive the BS upon completion of 120 credit hours, which include the General Education Core (30 cr.), required BS core, and four graduate courses (12 cr.). As previously described, a student who decides to leave the program will still be eligible to receive a BS degree. Also, if the student's performance is judged by the Graduate Committee to be unsatisfactory for the integrated degree program in that the minimum grade requirements (minimum 3.0 undergraduate and graduate GPA and minimum B– grade in the graduate courses) are not met, the student will still be able to receive a BS in Tourism, Convention, and Event Management upon completion of all the requirements for that degree.

      At some point, the Graduate College must code the student as a graduate student. At this point, the proposal states that the BS has been conferred with 120 hours of credit. If the student withdraws from the MS, it seems that the Informatics courses that were used as electives would be "consumed" and could

not applied to other graduate degrees at a later date. Also, the student will have earned only 120 of the 128 hours required for the BS as a stand-alone degree.