

BACKGROUND

University of Rio Grande

Master of Business Administration

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

This program meets Regents' minimum standards for graduate programs. There were concerns raised in the review resulting in a recommendation for provisional authorization through June, 2009, with yearly progress reports due December 31, 2007, and 2008. A follow-up review will be performed prior to June 30, 2009 to determine continued authorization. Staff believes the program will significantly improve prior to the follow-up review.

Rio Grande College was established in 1876 as an institution of learning for the young men and women of Southeastern Ohio. Its founders believed “that a sound education based upon Christian principles and ethics is necessary to the development and support of our religious institutions and the present and future welfare of our race,” and they appointed trustees “to manage and control said institution according to the laws of Ohio and the theology and practice of the Freewill Baptist Denomination.” The College opened its doors to students on September 13, 1876, providing “a course of study substantially equal to the courses of study in the first-class colleges of the Western States.”

The mission of the University of Rio Grande is to “provide programs in liberal arts, sciences, business, teacher education, fine and performing arts, nursing, and technologies.”

The current purpose of the institution is to provide educational opportunities thorough “Literary, Scientific, and Classical education.”

During its history, the University of Rio Grande has been a denominational college, a two-year college, a self-help student work college, and a four-year liberal arts college.

The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, established in 1974, represent a unique marriage between public and private education, between career and liberal arts education.

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited the University of Rio Grande from 1969 through 2010-2011.

The institution currently delivers a comprehensive slate of undergraduate programs and a Master’s in Classroom Teaching degree program with teacher education licensure.

The proposed Master of Business Administration (MBA) program was developed collaboratively with a regional advisory board composed of area business and industry. The program has a major concentration area in entrepreneurship that was identified specifically by the advisory board as a way to enhance the regional development interests of southern Ohio, northern West Virginia and northern Kentucky.

The review team found concerns with some proposed faculty and curricular components. The institution responded by narrowing the focus of the program to one concentration area (entrepreneurship), and by appointing appropriately qualified faculty to the program. Further, the university has developed graduate faculty load policies consistent with graduate level faculty expectations and responsibilities, and with Regents' standards.

Therefore, the team and staff are prepared to recommend Provisional Authorization for the proposed MBA program with Progress Reports to be submitted for the first two years of operation, and with a follow-up review to occur prior to June 30, 2009.