Proposed Approval Process for New Dual or Joint Degree Programs

With Non-Cornell Academic Institutions

University Faculty Committee
May 10, 2021

The recommended approval process can be visualized as follows:

The “definition” of the DAU and the PU depends on the level of the proposed degree:

- For undergraduate, professional masters, and other in-college degree programs the DAU is the Department or School that supplies the instructors while the PU is the College.

- For PhD and some research masters programs, the DAU is the Graduate Field that supplies the instructors while the PU is the Graduate School.

We now proceed to describe what happens at each of the first four stages in the recommended process: DAU, PU, UFC/Senate/CAPP, and IC.

The DAU Step

The DAU completes the [Academic Program Registration (APR) Form](#), hereafter referred to as “the proposal”. The rigor of the vetting process can be improved by adding five questions to the APR form.1

This question makes clear that consultation with experts on campus is expected:

Q1. Briefly describe the consultations that have taken place with faculty and others on campus whose research, scholarship, and experience are relevant to understanding the partner country and/or institution.

These questions provide evidence that the DAU has duly considered the ethical dimensions associated with the proposal:

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1 It is understood that the referenced APR form may be revised or that different forms may be used by IRP for different types of programs or that the names of specific individuals slated to participate in the program may be redacted from the document that is circulated. The key, however, is that the DAU responds to the five questions and that the responses become part of the “proposal dossier” that moves down the approval chain.
Q2. Explain how the proposed IDDP is consistent with Cornell University Core Values, including our commitment to purposeful discovery; free and open inquiry and expression; diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination; justice and human rights; and respect for the natural environment. If there is something less than full consistency with Cornell values, then offer a “greater good” argument that justifies the collaboration.

Q3. Briefly describe the history of prior collaborations with the partner institution and why that history inspires confidence that the partner will be an ethical partner in the future.

Q4. Briefly explain how the partnership will be monitored to ensure that there is compliance with what the agreement stipulates about academic freedom, freedom of speech and expression, and other protections for students, faculty, and staff. Describe the process for handling instances of non-compliance.

This question ensures that there is an accurate and comprehensive reporting of internal support:

Q5. Ask University and RTE faculty members in the DAU about their support of the IDDP by staging a referendum and reporting separate tallies for each (Yes/No/Abstain/DNV). The pool of University Faculty to be polled must include all professors, associate professors, and assistant professors. The pool of RTE Faculty to be polled must include all lecturers, senior lecturers, professors-of-the-practice (all ranks), and clinical professors (all ranks). It should be made clear that low voter turnout reflects badly on the DAU.

The completed proposal is passed along to the PU.

The PU Step
Added to the proposal dossier at this stage should be (a) a letter of support from the Dean and (b) the results of any committee deliberations. It should include a summary of negative concerns (if any). The updated proposal dossier should be passed along to the Dean of Faculty.

The UFC/CAPP/Senate Step
With possible input from the University Faculty Committee (UFC), CAPP reviews the proposal interacting with the DAU and PU as necessary. CAPP votes to approve or disapprove the proposal and produces a brief written report that includes its vote and a brief description of negative voter concerns (if any). If CAPP feels that issues are raised that require consideration by the full Senate, they will communicate these concerns for Senate consideration.

Altogether, this stage of the approval process should last no more than 60 days.

Documentation of the CAPP and Senate deliberations are added to the proposal dossier and communicated to the International Council (IC).

The IC Step
Within Global Cornell, the International Council advises the Vice Provost for International Affairs. It is recommended that the Chair of CAPP be an ex officio member of the Council.

The final recommendation of the IC to the Provost should be shared with the Senate. It should include a brief summary of any negative concerns that may have been voiced.