PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES IN THE UW SYSTEM

Presentation to the Board of Regents
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Why a discussion of professional doctorates?

- Increasing importance of professional doctorates in program array of research and comprehensive institutions nationwide

- Regent interest in:
  - national and Wisconsin contexts
  - policy implications for offering such degrees, especially at the comprehensives
Transitions in Professional Education

- Changing professional licensure and accreditation requirements

- Additional disciplinary and practice depth in response to emerging technologies

- New knowledge in content areas

- Changing workforce demands for graduate-level training
Doctor’s Degree: Research/Scholarship

• A PhD or other doctor's degree that requires advanced work beyond the master’s level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement.

• Examples:
  – PhD – Multiple Disciplines
  – DBA – Business Administration
  – DMA – Musical Arts
Doctor’s Degree: Professional Practice

• A doctor’s degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice.

• Examples:
  – JD or LLB – Law
  – MD – Medicine
  – DDS – Dentistry
Doctor’s Degree: Professional and Research

• The Doctor of Education (EdD) blurs the distinction between the research doctorate and the professional practice doctorate
  – Requires dissertation research
  – Often applied in nature
• Increasing relevance to leadership roles in public education
• EdD is undergoing a national reevaluation, in relation to the PhD in Education
Professional Doctorates

• Require at least a bachelor’s degree for entry, often in a related field
• Include study of applied or clinical research and/or advanced practice
• Provide preparation of body of knowledge needed for professional practice in a specific field
• Provide preparation for professional licensure and accreditation
History in the UW System

The UW System Board of Regents has recently authorized the implementation of three professional practice doctorates in health-related fields:

- Two as consortial or collaborative degrees between two UW System institutions (2005, 2006)
- One as a free-standing program at a doctoral campus (2008)
UW System Professional Doctorates

- Doctor of Medicine (pre merger) – UW-Madison
- Juris Doctorate (pre merger) - UW-Madison
- Doctor of Veterinary Science (1983) – UW-Madison
- Doctor of Pharmacy (1989) – UW-Madison
- Doctor of Audiology (2005)) – UW-Madison/UW-Stevens Point collaborative degree
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (2008) – UW-Madison,
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – UW-Madison, in development
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – UW- Milwaukee, in development
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – UW-Oshkosh/UW-Eau Claire collaborative degree, in development
Recent National Context

- Changes in the necessary competencies, requiring degree levels to be raised

- Disciplinary re-assessment of degree requirements, primarily in applied health professions

- Selective authority for comprehensive institutions to develop professional doctorates in Physical Therapy, Audiology, Nursing Practice, and Education at peer institutions
Peer Institutions Comparison

**University of Minnesota System:** Professional doctorates offered primarily at the flagship institution

**The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System:** Comprehensive institutions offer selected applied doctoral degrees

**State University of New York:** Research-oriented campuses designated as “university centers” offer doctoral degrees; professional practice doctorates are also offered at specialized professional colleges.

**North Carolina System:** Professional doctorates are offered at institutions with Carnegie classifications of “doctorate-granting” and “high research.”
Peer Institutions Comparison

California Higher Education Systems:

- University of California System is charged by state’s “Master Plan for Higher Education” as the only public institution responsible for awarding doctoral degrees
- Recent challenge by the California State University System in the legislature, still pending
- Limited professional doctorates are now offered collaboratively between the two systems
Perspectives from UW Comprehensive Institutions

- Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich
  UW-Eau Claire

- Chancellor Rick Wells
  UW-Oshkosh
Policy Questions

- What is the appropriate role of the UW System’s comprehensive institutions in providing professional doctorate education?
  - Is the offering of professional doctorates within the mission of the comprehensive institutions?
  - Should UW comprehensive institutions be authorized to offer professional doctorates, either individually, or in collaboration with another comprehensive institution?
Important Questions to Consider

• How would the offering of professional doctorates impact the role of master’s degrees and other forms of graduate education in our institutions?

• Will the addition of professional doctorates change the focus on undergraduate education and institutional culture at the comprehensives?

• To what extent is mission congruence an issue for comprehensive institutions?
Policy Areas for Further Consideration

- Resource implications
- Access
- Pricing and revenue opportunities
- Quality of programs, curricula, faculty, facilities
- Overall institutional capacity
- Alignment with Growth Agenda goals