Process to Validate the Quality of Partnering Institutions

for Collaborative Programs

*Agreed to by IFC xx-xx-xx and approved by President Tim Wolfe xx-xx-xx*

*Definition: The term “collaborative” refers to programs in which the University of Missouri is predominantly responsible for delivering the academic content of a program.*

The process for approving cooperative agreements between the University of Missouri and other four-year institutions of higher education to offer collaborative degrees will be determined by each campus in accordance with the Collected Rules and Regulations.

In cases in which the name of a partnering institution is to be included on the diploma awarded for collaborative degrees, the following process shall be used to validate the quality of a partnering institution as required by Collected Rule and Regulation 220.020 section B.3. This process shall apply to all partnering institutions of higher education and/or degrees not specified in section 173.005.2(2) Missouri Revised Statutes Cum. Supp. 2007[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Process**

A department or college that wishes to include the name of a partnering institution on the diploma issued to students completing a University of Missouri degree shall develop a proposal to validate the quality of the partnering institution.

The proposal shall be submitted to the Provost who will refer the proposal to the campus Partner Institution Screening Committee for review. If the committee’s recommendation is for approval and the Provost and Chancellor concur, the Chancellor shall forward the proposal to the President or designee for approval.

**Composition of the Partner Institution Screening Committee**

The screening committee shall consist of five members, with the composition of the committee determined by the type of degree and the type of institution.

Undergraduate Degree Domestic Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies or designee
2. The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies or the Graduate Dean, or designee
3. Three faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Faculty Senate/Council.

Graduate Degree and Domestic Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies or designee
2. The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies or the Graduate Dean, or designee
3. Two faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Graduate Faculty Senate/Council
4. One faculty member chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Faculty Senate/Council.

Undergraduate Degree and International Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies or designee
2. A representative of the International Office
3. Three faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Faculty Senate/Council.

Graduate Degree and International Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies or the Graduate Dean, or designee
2. A representative of the International Office
3. Two faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Graduate Faculty Senate/Council
4. One faculty member chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Faculty Senate/Council.

In the case of a partnership established to deliver an undergraduate degree, the committee shall be chaired by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies or designee. In the case of a partnership established to deliver a graduate degree, the committee shall be chaired by the Graduate Dean or the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, or designee.

**Criteria to Be Considered by Screening Committee During Proposal Review**

As a minimum, the institution being screened must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Domestic institutions must be accredited by a commission of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (e.g., HLC, SACS, etc.).
2. International institutions must be recognized by their country’s Ministry of Education or equivalent regulating agency (as verified through the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) Electronic Database for Global Education).
3. At least one campus of the University of Missouri must have an established relationship with the partnering institution for at least three years. The relationship should include engagement in significant collaborative activities such as research projects, collaborative degrees, etc. ~~In determining whether the length of the relationship is sufficient to validate the quality of the partnering institution,~~ consideration should be given to the reputation of the institution and the type and quality of collaborations it has with other universities.

The proposal should include additional information to make a convincing argument for the quality of the institution. Other factors that may be considered in validating the quality of the institution include, but are not limited to, the following:

* the institution’s admission requirements, including the average entrance scores of its undergraduate or graduate students;
* the research activity of the faculty and the institution’s research reputation;
* the quality of the institution’s collaborations with other colleges and universities, particularly if these collaborations include collaborative degree programs;
* the quality of the institution’s campus library resources and other academically-related physical resources, such as laboratories, etc.;
* the strength of other undergraduate and graduate degrees offered by the institution;
* accreditation of degrees in like disciplines at the partnering institution (e.g., ABET accreditation for engineering and computer science programs and AACSB accreditation for business programs); and,
* in the case of an international institution, the ranking of the institution among other universities within its own country.

Note that in all cases, the Provost’s Office shall be responsible for ensuring that agreements and processes comply with the policies and processes of the Higher Learning Commission.

1. Link to Missouri Revised Statutes Section 173.005.2 (2): <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/c100-199/1730000005.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)