

UK-UofL Joint Conferral of Degree: MBA (Executive Concentration)

Proposal: that the University of Kentucky Senate recommend the joint conferral with the University of Louisville of the degree “Master of Business Administration” (Executive MBA Concentration).

Background: The University of Kentucky Senate has recently programmatically [approved](#), with the support of the [Graduate Council](#), a [joint MBA concentration](#) between the University of Kentucky (UK) and the University of Louisville (UofL). The University of Louisville on its side has also approved this joint MBA concentration. A copy of the **Memorandum of Understanding** between the two business colleges of these institutions implementing this venture is included as **Attachment 1**. The approved MBA concentration for executives targets students with ten or more years of work experience and who are employed at the director’s level or higher. The new concentration was proposed and approved because it fills a need for executive education; neither institution had identified a previously existing MBA for executives at a public university in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Currently, many organizations in Kentucky send executives out of state to participate in similar programs such as those at Xavier University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Tennessee.

There are several reasons for this collaboration with UofL. First, the size of the potential market in Kentucky is small relative to much larger urban areas; delivering the concentration jointly efficiently utilizes the resources of both institutions and the Commonwealth. Second, The UK-UofL partnership represents two strong brands that will resonate across the Commonwealth and generate strong enrollments in both quality and number. Finally, by drawing on two outstanding faculties, the concentration will be taught with a world-class faculty team that permits greater staffing and scheduling flexibility.

Both institutions believe that their joint conferral of a single degree would explicitly convey the truly joint nature of their cooperative delivery of this approved MBA concentration. Joint conferral of a single degree also avoids the need for students to show on their resumes and explain that they have two separate but otherwise identical MBA degrees from two universities. The MOU between the two institutions, signed by the respective college deans and Provosts, that explained the intent that a single degree will be awarded, was submitted to the Council on Postsecondary Education, which then approved this joint venture in December of 2013 (**Attachment 2**). Degrees of the University of Kentucky are conferred by final action of the UK Board of Trustees, and only the Board of Trustees can make final institutional agreement with another university for joint conferral of a degree ([AR 1:5](#)).

The University Senate, with support of the Graduate Council, and endorsement of the UK Provost, has already academically approved the new Executive Concentration for the MBA that will be jointly delivered by the two institutions. The Gatton MBA Policy Committee, the Faculty of the Gatton College (**Attachment 3**), the Dean of the Gatton College (**Attachment 1**), the UK Provost (**Attachment 1**) and the Graduate Council propose that the University Senate recommend to the Board of Trustees that it approve institutional agreement with the University of Louisville for joint conferral of this MBA degree.

ATTACHMENT 1

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

Carol Martin Gatton College of Business and Economics

University of Kentucky

and

College of Business

University of Louisville

The Carol Martin Gatton College of Business and Economics (Gatton College), University of Kentucky and the College of Business, University of Louisville desire to formalize a mutually beneficial agreement to offer a joint MBA program for executive level managers. This program will target executives of for-profit and not-for profit enterprises primarily in Kentucky, Southern Ohio, and Southern Indiana, with a focus on the Louisville, Lexington, and Cincinnati metropolitan areas. The parties to this agreement believe that they can offer a higher quality program through this cooperative agreement than would be possible individually.

The primary elements of this agreement include:

- Approximately 50 percent of the classes taken by any cohort in the program will be taught by the faculty of each school. It is recognized that there may be slight variations in this split of teaching responsibilities from cohort to cohort, depending on faculty availability.
- Each university will appoint faculty members of the other university teaching in the program as adjunct faculty members to facilitate faculty credentialing for accreditation purposes. All faculty members teaching in the program will meet the credentialing standards of both universities.
- It is expected that all faculty members teaching in the program will do so on an overload basis for extra pay:
- The parties agree to split all revenue generated and expenses incurred on an equal basis, subject only to adjustments that may occur related to instances when teaching responsibilities are not split evenly.
- Approximately 50 percent of the classes will be held in Louisville at the College of Business and 50 percent will be held in Lexington at the Gatton College of Business and Economics.
- The final curriculum for the program will be approved by both faculties, as will any changes to that curriculum as the program proceeds. The initial curriculum will be reviewed and approved, as appropriate or required, through the shared governance process at each university.
- Students will receive a diploma bearing the names, seals and signatures of both the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. Transcripts will also bear the names of both schools and clearly indicate that the degree is a joint degree between the two universities.
- The academic content of this joint degree program will be consistent with the content provided under both universities' current MBA programs and program authority.

ATTACHMENT 2



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 320
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: 502-573-1555
Fax: 502-573-1535
<http://www.cpe.ky.gov>

Robert L. King
President

December 13, 2013

Dr. David W. Blackwell
Dean
Gatton College of Business and Economics
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40356

Dear Dr. Blackwell,

On June 6, 2013, Aaron Thompson and Melissa Bell from the Council on Postsecondary Education met with Dean Blackwell from the University of Kentucky and Dean Moyer of the University of Louisville. The deans explained their interest in creating a joint executive MBA program and shared a draft MOU between the institutions. Elements of the draft were discussed and suggestions were incorporated into the MOU.

Offering this program jointly will allow each institution to capitalize on its strengths and more efficiently use institutional and state resources. Therefore, CPE is supportive of this collaboration between the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. I am extremely happy to see you working together to provide this powerful degree option for our state.

Since MBA programs in the CIP 52.0101 already exist at each institution, CPE approval is not required for the joint MBA. The finalized MOU was sent to us on July 23, 2013 and has been recorded in the program inventory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Thompson".

Aaron Thompson, Ph.D.
Executive VP & Chief Academic Officer

Cc: Dr. Carolyn Callahan, Dean, College of Business, University of Louisville
Dr. Shirley Willihnganz, Executive Vice President and University Provost, University of Louisville
Dr. Christine Riorden, Provost, University of Kentucky

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ATTACHMENT 3

NOTE: Below is the solicitation for the College Faculty Vote held in October 2013, that included a vote on the provision that graduates would receive a jointly awarded degree. The final vote tally was 66 in favor and 1 opposed.

Colleagues,

Yesterday afternoon we held an information session for faculty to discuss the proposed Executive MBA (EMBA) curriculum. Questions raised during the session as well as responses are attached for your review.

We are now at the point for the Gatton faculty to vote on two proposals: 1. to pursue a joint EMBA with shared governance with the University of Louisville and 2. to approve the proposed curriculum. If you go to the drop zone at <\\gatton1\Business\DropZone\Executive MBA> you will find the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two universities which outlines at a high level how the program will be developed and ultimately governed. Also in the drop zone is the proposed curriculum and all course syllabi.

Your vote on the governance and basic structure of the program means that you approve the elements of the MOU, and more specifically you approve:

- Sharing governance of the program with the faculty and administration of the University of Louisville, to include academic decisions about major programs or curriculum changes, new courses, admission policies, etc. through a joint UK-UL faculty committee;
- Awarding a diploma to graduates of the program that reflects that the degree is awarded by both the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville;
- Shared responsibility of the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville for ensuring that faculty members from either institution are appropriately credentialed and qualified to teach in the program based on our standards for appointment to the graduate faculty and AACSB/SACS credentialing and faculty qualification standards; and
- Sharing governance of the program with the appropriate administrators of the University of Louisville with respect to assigning faculty members to teach in the program with the understanding that absent unusual circumstances, half of the program will be taught by University of Kentucky faculty and half by University of Louisville Faculty.

Your vote on the curriculum means that you approve the number of credit hours and the courses listed in the curriculum, including an endorsement of the “EMBA” course prefix, which greatly simplifies record keeping, accounting for revenues, and coordination of transcribing with the University of Louisville.

The vote will be conducted electronically and you will receive a ballot asking you to vote on these two issues. It is important that all faculty members participate in the voting process. Voting will be open through Wednesday October 16th.

In the meantime, if you have any question, don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks to all faculty for their input via committees, faculty meetings, and faculty groups working on the syllabi.

Steve