

Future HLC Change Request – Courses or Programs at International Sites (Spring 2008)

An NMSU work group of the Provost, Dean and Associate Dean of the Office of International and Boarder Programs and the Dean and Associate Dean of the College of Extended Learning is examining the feasibility of a future HLC Change Request for Courses or Programs at International Sites.

NMSU is in a unique position to provide support to collaborating international institutions because of our proximity to Mexico and our long history of involvement with Mexican institutions in particular. It would be beneficial to NMSU and its partnering international institutions if an overall HLC Change Request could be prepared for consideration by the HLC. An overall HLC Change Request could allow NMSU to offer 5 or more courses and perhaps existing degree programs at international sites without HLC approval for each individual program or set of courses. Limiting conditions could be applied to such an overall HLC Change Request, e.g. offering individual program or a set of courses at partner international institutions within a certain radius of the U.S. Mexico border.

The feasibility examination will assure adequate internal review of all courses or programs offered at international sites and will include:

- 1) Establishing an NMSU website to facilitate internal review of all courses or programs offered at international sites;
- 2) Assuring adequate and continuing internal communication to ensure NMSU faculty and staff are aware of applicable HLC rules and regulations;
- 3) Assuring adequate and continuing internal communication to ensure NMSU faculty and staff are aware of the internal review and approval process; and
- 4) Determining whether an overall HLC Change Request, similar to the present Distance Education Change Request, will be considered by the HLC.

By fall 2008, a broader working group with faculty from the NMSU colleges and community colleges interested in delivering courses and degree programs at international sites will convene to prepare appropriate documentation for an overall HLC Change Request or multiple HLC Change Requests, if needed.