Communicating Approved Programs

Background from Stefani Dawn:

In the past few weeks there have been two separate issues of programs making public announcements prior to proposals going through the system and getting documented in the catalog (which is the legal contract with students). One is an email announcement to students telling them that the Merchandising Management Minor has been suspended effective June 1, and the other is a posting for a degree program that has not been approved (see links below). Both of these examples place OSU in potentially legally challenging situations similar to the problem at LBCC when a program was suspended and not entered into the catalog (students are filing a lawsuit). (Here’s the Draft proposal for the A-MBA: https://secure.oregonstate.edu/ap/cps/proposals/view/93855; here is the College of Business still advertising the A-MBA on their website at http://business.oregonstate.edu/mba/academics/degrees/accountancy-mba.)

In an attempt to remedy this, I am proposing a policy that clarifies the expectations around how public announcements can be made about programs that have not yet been approved. (see Advertising Policy.docx)

The commonality between items #6 and #7 is that the catalog is the legal contractual document with students and the CPS and its associated processes are how changes get into the catalog. I know people want to avoid the time it takes to submit proposals and have them properly go through the system, but the steps all have meaning/purpose. Important things get caught. Yes, we want to be efficient, but not at the expense of quality and protecting OSU and its students.