



The Master of Arts group

This group of students is progressing well, and most of my work is the routine week-to-week teaching by Zoom. They have been exemplary in their consistent attendance and participation, and Bp. Yuri has been very faithful as an assistant instructor.

The group has now finished the coursework units and will start their final projects next semester. The purpose of projects is to encourage students to attempt a significant new task that will benefit for their ministry. Ideas so far have included training new leaders, planting a new church and creating a new digital platform for ministry.

Accreditation preparation

WU now meets the main institutional criteria for accreditation, that is, programs have been running for at least two years under the same institutional ownership. Until that time, we were not even eligible to apply.

So what have we done so far? We seem to be on track.

1. I have already done the accreditor's course.
2. The online library should meet the requirements; it gives access to about a billion items of research, not including general websites. It is completely online, and includes a number of research repositories. The difficulty is the lack of suitable sources in the Indonesian language. In most cases, they have never been written.
3. The board has recently approved the 2022-23 edition of the catalog. These documents inform the general public of degree requirements and regulations. It is based on a template that meets requirements.
4. We have started comparing our degree programs to existing US accredited programs to demonstrate equivalence.

5. As a staff group and as a student group, we regularly review our program.
6. We have a trained research ethics committee that is now ready to consider proposals.
7. Our general policies are quite comprehensive, and we are now reviewing the Board Handbook to guide good governance.

So far so good, but we still have a lot to do. For some things, we need to add committees and committee members. We will also need to go through all requirements to check compliance and address any particular shortcomings. The list is quite forbidding, although some of it is simply writing descriptions of what we do. The total cost of accreditation will probably be very high, even though fees are not high for small schools.

PhD to replace EdD

The US accreditor is planning to change the scope of qualifications it accredits, so we have replaced the Doctor of Education with a PhD as a more widely useful degree.

We also added a Master of Philosophy as a senior Master's program for teaching purposes. It will be completely embedded in the PhD program, so it requires no extra work for us.

Another doctorate

You might remember that I was asked to do another doctorate for accreditation purposes. My topic is a review of the MA according to the accreditation criteria for distance education; it's useful as we'd have to do it anyway. I've finished it and am now doing the final edit.

Next semester

I hope to start with a new larger cohort for the MA program and a handful of PhD students. Life will be busy.

RMW