

University Graduate Council Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

1:00 – 2:55 p.m.

Sherrick 103

Council in Attendance:

Alan Dyer, *Chair* (Agriculture)
Anne Christensen (Business)
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)
W. Randall Babbitt (Faculty Senate)
Theodore Lipfert (Arts)

John Borkowski, *Vice Chair* (Sciences)
Melissa Ragain (Arts)
Arthur Bangert (Education)
Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)
Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)
Geraldine Govaerts (International Programs)

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Absent:

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Timothy LeCain (Letters)

- **Meeting started at 1:05 p.m.**
- **January 21, 2015 minutes**
 - Change to minutes: Meeting start time corrected to 1:05 p.m.
 - Chair Dyer called for approval, council member Ragain motioned, council member Al-Kaisy second
 - Unanimous approval
- **Announcements**
 - Review of Progress form
 - Passed at previous meeting
 - Added student signature line, term GPA, cumulative GPA, and affirmation that “The student has met with [their] committee”
 - Dean Hoo: Important in regards to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, appointing students, reporting “satisfactory progress”, and supporting the student
 - Concern: Art & Film departments do not have committees until end of 2nd year
 - This can be noted in the comment field on the form
- **Old Business**
 - Doctoral 12 credit beyond Master’s policy proposal (Discussion)
 - Suggestion: Should not apply to continuing/en route students
 - Counter: All doctoral students should take 12 original coursework credits
 - Policy is currently in use, but needs clarification in language
 - Chair Dyer called for approval as written, council member Miles motioned, council member Christensen second
 - Unanimous pass
 - Effective immediately

- Off-topic suggestion: Should policy proposals be sent to Graduate Coordinators ahead of UGC meetings? Whose responsibility?
 - Chair Dyer and Dean Hoo suggested that council members should be the filters for their respective departments/colleges
- Master's credits toward doctoral degree policy proposal (Discussion)
 - New, lowered credit maximum is fairer to "Plan B" students
 - Policy will affect continuing students
 - Add language so that it will not affect them?
 - Chair Dyer called for approval that this policy will not affect continuing students, council member Babbitt motioned, council member Al-Kaisy second
 - Unanimous pass to amend
 - Council member Lipfert motioned to accept policy as written, council member Miles second
 - No vote
 - Chair Dyer called for a motion to delay vote on actual policy so that input from departments may be gathered; council member Babbitt motioned, council member Lipfert second
 - Unanimous pass to delay vote
 - Issues to be addressed by the Policy Committee and reported back to UGC at the next meeting
- One-credit Extension (OCE) policy (Discussion)
 - Film department uses the OCE frequently – estimated 40%-50% of students; concerned that they will lose students if forced to register and pay for 3 credits. The Art department is in agreement with this.
 - HHD also uses the OCE frequently
 - There is not faculty control over student completion at this time; cannot often estimate if the OCE is enough during time of dissertation
 - The OCE is useful for motivation as a second deadline
 - Most council members suggest keeping the OCE in place
 - What can be done to make the workload & processing involved with the OCE easier on The Graduate School?
 - Dean Hoo suggests tabling the issue to allow The Graduate School time to consider what can be done to make these processes easier.
- Commencement Participation for the One-credit Extension (OCE) (Discussion)
 - Are there separate allowances for Master's and Doctoral students for the OCE?
 - Do not allow OCE students at the incorrect ceremony
 - The Graduate School still accepts appeals
 - Participation for Plan C (non-thesis) students. PACC often has students with one summer course (3 credits) left and wish to walk in the spring graduation because of how the program is set up
 - Dean Hoo offered to accept a list of PACC students for graduation each spring term
- Graduate Student Representative for UGC
 - Background from Governance Committee:
 - It is already written in the by-laws to have one graduate student representative and that the responsibility rotates around colleges

- Student representative has not had a voting right
- UGC feedback:
 - Two students from two different fields for a minimum of one year would be useful for varied input, rather than rotating the role with one student
 - Important to have a doctoral student as a more fair representation of student body
 - Previously, student representative was not always a consistent presence, but UGC has had active and present student representatives
 - What is their role – Disseminate information? Weigh-in on issues?
 - How to find student representatives – Governance Committee will discuss and report at next meeting
- **New Business**
 - Change in Grading Method for 590/690 credits (Discussion)
 - Dean Hoo: Change from a Pass/Fail to a graded course for students' graduation term; every other term, 590/690 credits will remain Pass/Fail
 - Should these credits have a different course number for last term? (i.e.: 691)
 - Should all 590/690 credits be graded until last term, when course reverts to Pass/Fail?
 - Would grading inflate some students' GPAs?
 - Signature page no longer a part of the Thesis/Dissertation
 - Most council members lobby for return of signature page, as it helps with quality and completion
 - Dean Hoo proposes that the Report of Comprehensive Exam/Defense form should include a "Pass Conditionally" option
 - What would be the function of the new category?
 - Some council members are in support of this proposal
 - Policy & Procedures Committee will discuss the grading of 590/690 credit and report at the next UGC meeting
- **Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.**