

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING  
January 24, 2006

Meeting convened at 3:05 p.m. – Dean Atlas presiding.

Members present: Annette Allen, Namok Choi, Susan Griffin, Carlton Hornung, Ruth Huber, Larry Hunt, Carolyn Klinge, Seow-Chin Ong, George Pack, Rammohan Ragade, Joseph Steffen, and Nancy Theriot.

Ex officio: Richard Stremel.

Members Absent: Timothy Brauch, Evelyne Gozal, Mahesh Gupta, Vicki Hines-Martin, Waldemar Karwowski, Kathleen Klueber, Ann Larson, Ron Sahoo, David Scott, and James Wittliff.

Guests: Robert Ronau (CEHD).

1. Approval of the Minutes from the December 20, 2005 meeting.  
MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November meeting with the amendments that Susan Griffin and Rammohan Ragade were present. Moved by George Pack; seconded by Rammohan Ragade.  
PASSED.
2. Report of the Curriculum Committee.
  - Revision of Ph.D. Programs in CEHD.  
Associate Dean of CEHD, Dr. Robert Ronau, was present to present the revisions and respond to questions. The purpose of the revisions is to align all the doctoral programs in CEHD to the conceptual framework provided by the unifying themes: Social Justice and Equity; Research and Scholarship; Leadership; and Synthesis and Application. The re-alignment includes programs, admission policies, candidate core competencies, and procedures with a goal of attaining consistency and quality. The first step of this re-alignment is to move all doctoral programs to a two path system: a BA + 90 Cr. Hr.; or a Masters + 60 Cr. Hr. Professor Ronau assured Council that these revisions had been vetted through faculty groups within the departments. He indicated that the impetus for these changes is the accreditation review for the College.  
MOTION: From Committee to approve the revision of credit hour pathways to degree.  
PASSED.

3. Discussion of Graduate School Policies.

- Graduate Student Teaching in Graduate Programs

Council discussed a situation where a student in a discipline doctoral program has been nominated to Graduate Faculty to teach Master's students in the same discipline. It has been Graduate School Policy that graduate students not be made members of the Graduate Faculty, and therefore cannot teach graduate courses to graduate students unless operating under the supervision of a Graduate Faculty member. The twist to this case is that the Master's and Doctoral students in this discipline never enroll in the same courses. Council took the view that graduate students should not be directly engaged in teaching graduate students. A firewall between students of different levels within a discipline would need to be present, in order to avoid the perception of a conflict. Council brought up the prohibition of teaching faculty obtaining graduate degrees in the program in which they teach. This prohibition will be clarified.

- Probation Policy

The Graduate School has a policy that places a student on academic probation when their cumulative GPA falls below 3.00. Students then have one semester in which to bring the GPA back to 3.00; otherwise they are subject to dismissal by the Graduate Dean. This determination of GPA is currently done by hand calculation for every graduate student in every program and students below a 3.00 must be notified by letter, which takes time. To improve the process, the Dean wishes to discuss with the Registrar the possibility of this process being handled within PeopleSoft. Council agreed.

- Time-Limits for Applying Course Work to Degree

Currently, Master's students are prohibited from applying credit earned more than six years prior towards their degree and Doctoral students have no prohibition concerning age of course work, but have four years to complete degree requirements after passing the Qualifying Exam. This inconsistency was discussed. Council asked to see what other schools do with regard to time-limits and asked for a draft policy to consider.

- Determination of Council Membership if Graduate Faculty Status is Dissolved

Dean Atlas presented the argument that the role of Council would likely be more important in an environment without Graduate Faculty. Various models of representation were discussed such as; representation based upon the number of graduate programs in a unit, or a model more like the Senate than the House of Representatives. Discussion will continue pending results of Graduate School restructure.

4. Other Business.

Graduate administration and Council need to look at Interdisciplinary Master's Degrees and determine a way to provide faculty credit for work that does not look like departmental work. To be investigated further.

Meeting adjourned 4:36 p.m.