



GRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on August 29, 2013

Present: Professors Reed, Boboc, Monaghan, Sridhar, Plecnik, Ziolek, Sotiropoulos, Rutar, Resnick, Reinthal, Zingale, Kosteas, Schultheiss, and Dean Zhu

Absent/Excused: Professors Wang, Gatica, Regoeczi, Bubenik

Dean Zhu called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Dr. Zhu asked Council members to begin the first, special Graduate Council meeting with introductions. Faculty went around the table, introduced themselves and their program.
2. **New Business** – Dr. Zhu explained that this special, early meeting was to review the submitted departmental files for graduate courses for the 4-3 curricular revisions. Five subjects (Economics, English, Philosophy, Art, and History) have been divided amongst Council members for review, comments, and approvals.

❖ **Economics**

- i. ECN 628 has been removed from the list, per Dr. Kosteas, chair of UCC
- ii. All proposed Economics undergraduate courses to be changed have been reviewed and approved by UCC.
- iii. Faculty assigned to the Economics graduate courses approved the revisions from 4 credits to 3.
- iv. **Dr. Zhu asked for a motion to approve the Economics graduate courses. The motion was seconded and approved.**

❖ **English**

- i. Council members discussed some of the listed changes to the English graduate courses. Can one deleted reading out of 7 or the total number of poems written constitute a 25% cut? Perhaps the novel is the longest of the seven?
- ii. Some faculty felt that one needs to be flexible in the humanities. In some disciplines, cuts can be specific and clearly defined, but not in others.
- iii. Dr. Kosteas shared that UCC has been accepting “reasonable” cuts being careful to not accept, for example, only a clear 5% cut. He stated that OBOR will most likely be looking at this process carefully since it is a major curricular revision.
- iv. A Council member pointed out that these revisions/changes have gone through the Colleges and have been reviewed already, perhaps once or twice. Graduate Council is a second or third review. Some of these issues have probably been debated and discussed.

- v. Some reviewers felt the syllabi had too many references to WAC and Gen Ed courses, clearly showing these as the same syllabi for the undergraduate courses.
 - vi. Council members expressed concern that many of the syllabi do not show clear differences in the undergraduate vs. the graduate courses in content, substance and assignments.
 - vii. Instead of holding up the process, Council agreed to move the English graduate courses through the 4-3 conversion process, **but** to schedule an audit of all graduate, cross-listed courses at a later date to ask for these differences.
 - viii. **A motion was made to approve the English graduate courses. The motion was seconded and approved.**
- ❖ A decision was made to pursue the undergraduate vs. graduate differences in cross-listed courses. Dr. Zhu will send a memo, approximately in one year after the entire 4-3 conversions and the 120 credits to a degree processes are completed. All departments with cross-listed graduate courses will be asked to send a short paragraph or a few sentences (total syllabi not needed again) that clearly define the differences between undergrad/grad courses.
- ❖ **Philosophy**
- i. The Council reviewers approved the graduate courses for a 4-3 conversion.
 - ii. **A motion was made to approve the Philosophy graduate courses, which was seconded and approved.**
- ❖ **Art**
- i. The Art courses presented a challenge since it is difficult to quantify such things as sculptures and paintings.
 - ii. Six *new* courses were included in the Art proposal which were reviewed by Associate Dean Schultheiss. She was unable to review 3 of the course syllabi, which seemed missing. (These were subsequently found in the proposal before the “accept” was sent).
 - iii. In spite of similar issues with syllabi differences and incorrect grading scales, Council agreed to approve the courses based on the 4-3 conversions. These issues will be covered at a future date when syllabi differences are requested.
 - iv. **A motion was made to approve the Art graduate course conversions, which was seconded and approved.**
- ❖ **History**
- i. Reviewers expressed the following issues with the proposal:
 - HIS 516 is listed on the spreadsheet but not included
 - HIS 585 is listed on the spreadsheet but not included; HIS 586 has been submitted twice, but one is labeled 585
 - The cuts mentioned in HIS 564 and HIS 566 (Pre-Columbian) do not appear to be listed on the syllabi.
 - The wording on the curricular change form for HIS 601 appears to be inconsistent and it is not clear if the course is actually being deleted or revised.
 - ii. Because of numerous questions and requests for clarification, Council felt that the History proposal could not be approved at this time but should be sent back to the department.

- iii. **A motion was made to reject the History graduate course conversions and send it back to the department. The motion was seconded and approved.**

3. Next Meeting

- ❖ The next meeting will be Thursday, September 5 @ **3:00 p.m.** in PH 200.
- ❖ At that time, the BGES proposal will be reviewed and any other department submissions. At this time, BGES is the only one ready.

- 4. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.