



GRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held May 4, 2015

<i>Present:</i>	Dean Zhu, Professors Jayanti, Monaghan, Sparks, Gatica, Sridhar, Sotiropoulos, Marino, Regoeczi, Delgado, Reinthal, Zingale, Kosteads, Thornton
<i>Absent/Excused:</i>	Professors Reed, Plecnik, Kaufman, Kondratov, Associate Dean Schultheiss
<i>Guests:</i>	Associate Dean Joyce Mastboom, Professors Allyson Robichaud, Stephen Gingerich, Peter Clapham, Mamadou Seck

Dean Zhu called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

1. **Approve Agenda** – The Revised meeting Agenda was approved.
2. **Approve minutes from April 10, 2015 meeting** - The minutes were approved as written.
3. **New Business**
 - ❖ Program suspensions in CLASS – Dr. Mastboom provided background information on the proposed suspensions of three programs: M.A. in Sociology, M.A. in Philosophy and M.A. in Art History
 - i. The Sociology suspension proposal was initiated by the department faculty. Even with current enrollment of 15 students it is not felt that this is a viable program. The Criminology major has a stronger interest. The department feels in the interim period of current students’ completion time they will explore options for an alternative M.A. degree.
 - Council members felt 15 was a good number of students but understood the department faculty initiative for a different degree path.
 - **A motion was made to approve the suspension of the M.A. in Sociology, which passed unanimously.**
 - ii. The Philosophy suspension proposal was initiated by the College Dean. The CLASS faculty voted strongly **against** this suspension. The CLASS Curriculum Committee recommended that the suspension be accepted. Dr. Robichaud, speaking to keep the program, explained that previous requests for full-time faculty positions had not been filled and retirements have caused a drop in faculty members. It is felt that cross-listed courses help, rather than hinder, undergraduate students and that degree graduates often become adjuncts, teaching undergraduate students.
 - Council members disagree with this suspension and discussion included various points, such as:
 - a. Ph.D. degrees are “philosophy” degrees; having a University without a graduate philosophy program sends a negative message
 - b. A Council member felt continuous non-support of arts, humanities, and social science programs in favor of STEM

programs contradicts our University standard and could pave the way to becoming a technical community college. The CSU Presidential Forum on Liberal Arts was used as an example of the worth of non-STEM disciplines.

- A question was asked about the process if Graduate Council speaks against this proposed suspension
 - a. Council members felt that their voices should be heard; members should vote as they believe to be “on the record” whether actual impact or the final outcome is affected or not
 - b. Council asked if moving this proposal forward in the OCAS system would indicate “approval?”
 - c. A decision was made to indicate in OCAS (through the Comments section) that Council did **not** support this proposal, to ask for further input from the Provost, and to ask UCC **not** to act on the Philosophy suspension until the Provost provided further input. **A motion was made with this explanation, and Graduate Council’s non-support was approved unanimously.**
- iii. The Art History suspension proposal was initiated by the College Dean. The program is jointly shared with the History & Art Departments and is a specialization for the M.A. in History. Enrollment is low. The department supports the suspension decision.
 - A Council member asked for an estimate of cost associated with this degree and felt that a minimal amount would be saved by suspension.
 - **A motion was made to approve the suspension of the M.A. in History, Art History specialization, which was unanimously approved.**
- ❖ Chemical Dependency Counseling Certificate revisions
 - i. The major revision for the Certificate is to allow a required course, SWK 692 OR CNS 623 to be accepted for the group class requirement. The School of Social Work has been notified and agrees to the change.
 - ii. **A motion was made to approve the Certificate revision, which passed unanimously.**
- ❖ Thesis option revisions for the M.S.in Chemical Engineering and the M.S. in Biomedical Engineering
 - i. For the thesis option of both programs, a minimum of nine credits of either CHE 699 or BME 699 are required. The revision is to allow three of the nine credits to include ESC 720 Research Communications in lieu of all nine credits in 699.
 - ii. **A motion was made to approve the revisions to the Chemical and Biomedical Engineering proposals which passed unanimously.**
- ❖ “U” grades – discussion
 - i. Dr. Zhu provided information on a previous issue concerning a student dismissal and the wording included in the description of “U” grades. A program recommended dismissal of a student and included “U” grades the student received in their evaluation. The description reads, “Grades of U do not influence a graduate student’s grade-point average, nor are U grades considered in the University’s academic warning and dismissal regulations for graduate students.”

- ii. It needs to be clear if a student is being dismissed from the program and/or from the University.
- iii. Following discussion, Council suggested the wording be changed in the Graduate Catalog to: “Unsatisfactory performance by a graduate student in selected courses. Grades of U do not influence a graduate student’s grade-point average. **However, a U grade may be used for a program’s optional dismissal decision.**”

4. Continuing Business

- ❖ Spanish 4+1 proposal—resubmission
 - i. The previous submission was not clear on total credits to the undergraduate degree and total credits with a Master’s. Dr. Zhu asked how many total credits to the undergraduate degree (37) and total credits for a regular Master’s degree (40).
 - ii. Dr. Gingerich clarified the credits and the progression to both degrees through the ‘regular’ route and with a 4+1 program.
 - iii. A Council member asked a question about speaking and comprehension proficiency assessment in relation to course numbering. Students are assessed on their skills at different points and follow national norms (ACTFL). It was suggested that this assessment process explanation be included in the proposal for UCC’s clarification.
 - iv. The Registrar thought UCC might take exception to the item, “The last of the 500 level courses will be accepted in lieu of the capstone requirement for undergraduates.” It was also felt that a Program Sheet would help with the readability and understanding of the proposal.
 - v. **A motion was made to approve the proposal with a “condition” that a Program Sheet be sent with the proposal and UCC take note of the capstone sentence in question. The motion passed unanimously.**
- ❖ BGES EVS courses—resubmission
 - i. Six EVS courses have been involved in the 4-3 conversion process. The graduate courses have been separated into two 2-credit courses (lecture/lab).
 - ii. Part of the Council’s previous request was to have a syllabus for each course with clarification of grading for undergraduate students versus graduate student.
 - iii. Dr. Clapham has submitted a ‘combined’ syllabus for the six courses (lecture and lab) and explained that this is currently being used for the approved undergraduate courses. The lecture portion is online.
 - iv. **A motion was made to approve the proposal which passed unanimously.**
- ❖ Social Work request for exception to Level 1 and Level 2 graduate faculty status instructors for 600 level courses—resubmission
 - i. Council’s previous request was for clarification of the plan of study-which courses are taken in which semester.
 - ii. Social Work is asking for a temporary exemption for ten first year courses which will eventually be changed to 500 level courses, eligible to be taught by a Level 3 graduate faculty member. Two additional second-year Practicum courses will also be granted the exception.
 - iii. Council’s additional concern was that students wouldn’t ever be taught by a Level 1 or Level 2 graduate faculty member throughout the program. The degree is a total of 60 credits hours, so this is unlikely.
 - iv. **A motion was made to approve Social Work’s exemption requests. The motion passed unanimously.**

- ❖ Continuing discussion items
 - i. Graduate catalog format
 - ii. Enrollment updates
 - iii. 4-3 conversion process for graduate programs
 - iv. All items were passed over due to the length of the meeting thus far.

5. Announcements

- ❖ Graduate Council Election results
 - i. Dr. Zhu thanked those Council members whose term expired and will not be returning next year. He announced the names of the new members.
 - ii. During the spring voting, the By-Laws revision document passed with a total of 215 votes-199 approved, 16 did not approve.
 - iii. Graduate Council Committee replacements
 - Council members elected replacement members for the Petitions, Grade Dispute, Graduate Faculty Review, and Program Review Committees.

6. Graduate Council Representation & Standing Committees – Available reports

Because of time constraints, reports were not given, with the exception of the Graduate Faculty Review Committee

- a. Faculty Senate
- b. University Admissions & Standards
- c. College of Graduate Studies' Admissions & Standards
- d. University Curriculum Committee
- e. Graduate Faculty Review Committee
 - The Committee has submitted its recommendations for the Education applicants in Spring 2015 and sought Council input for one in question.
 - The concern is the faculty members' book being submitted with a sixth revision and whether this is acceptable. How many revisions should be used for status?
 - Council members felt this issue would need attention next year to set guidelines, however they felt the faculty member should not be penalized *this* year and agreed to Level 1 status.
 - Since a large number of Council members needed to leave, an email vote will be conducted for Council to approve/not approve the Committee's recommendations. (Results of the email vote provided **approval** to accept the Committee's recommendations for Education faculty applicants in Spring 2015).
- f. Petitions Committee
- g. Grade Dispute Committee
- h. Program Review Committee
- i. University Research Council

7. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be determined in Fall 2015.

8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.