



GRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held on February 7, 2012

Present: Dean Jianping Zhu, Professors Shelton, Medina-Rivera, Zhou, Monaghan, Zhao, Ray, Bubenik, Foster, Pettey, Spicer, Delgado, Marino, Mensforth, Bagaka's, Thornton

Absent/Excused: Professors Dixit, Harper, Talu, Shukla

Guests: Professors Rosemary Sutton, Pamela Rutar, Wendy Regoeczki, Crystal Weyman; Eric Yeager

Dean Zhu called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Approve Agenda – The Revised Agenda was approved as presented

2. Approve minutes from January 19, 2012 meeting - The minutes were approved as written.

3. New Business

- ❖ Proposed Deadlines for Graduate Curriculum Modifications—Rosemary Sutton explained the draft handout of proposed changes to university deadlines for curriculum modifications. With the upcoming multi-term registration and a new catalog system, implementing last-minute changes to the curriculum will have a great impact on students.
 - i. A suggestion was made to link to the document on the Graduate College web site once it is finalized.
- ❖ Graduate Assistantship contracts—input/feedback was sought from Council members concerning two different scenarios, 1) using tuition money for undergraduate courses and 2) using tuition money for ESL courses.
 - i. The information is being shared for informational purposes and to discuss if a cap should be set for the number of undergraduate courses covered.
 - ii. Requests have come from faculty/advisors. Discussion items included the number of requests, whether courses were necessary for the graduate program, and undergraduate prerequisite courses.
 - iii. Following the discussion the general consensus is that sometimes there are exceptions to a case but there should be a cap set for the number of undergraduate courses allowed to be covered by the GA allocation.
 - iv. In ESL cases, the involved students are ‘borderline’ or just a few points away from the accepted standard. The ESL courses are graduate 500-level courses. These classes do not count toward the degree but it was felt they could be covered by the contract tuition in order to have the graduate student become proficient as soon as possible.

4. Continuing Business

- ❖ The M.A. in Creative Writing Revisions were sent back to the department in order to revise a section within the proposal. The section was revised and again presented. Rationale includes bringing the program more in line with national marks. The revisions include:
 - i. Deleting ENG 512 “Craft of Literature” as a requirement
 - ii. Reducing elective hours from 12 to 4 credits in order to include the Workshop sequence (ENG 591, 592, 593, 594)
 - iii. Adding new courses:
 - ENG 591/391 “Fiction Workshop”
 - ENG 592/392 “Nonfiction Workshop”
 - ENG 593/393 “Playwriting Workshop”
 - ENG 594/393 “Poetry Workshop”
 - iv. Total number of credits to degree is unchanged

A motion was made to approve this proposal with its revisions and the motion was approved unanimously.

- ❖ The M.A. in Sociology revisions were tabled from the January meeting until department representation could answer Council questions. The following changes to the program are proposed:
 - i. Standardize admission criteria by requiring a GRE score
 - ii. Change SOC 698 “Master’s Research Paper” from a requirement to an elective course
 - iii. Revise content of SOC 651 “Sociological Statistics” to include some review and modify the title to “Sociological Statistics I”
 - iv. Add a second, required statistics course, SOC 652 “Sociological Statistics II”
 - v. Remove SOC 650 “Sociological Research Methods” as a prerequisite for SOC 651
 - vi. Total credits (32) to degree remains unchanged

The major concern is making SOC 698 “Master’s Research Paper” an option, instead of a required course. With the research class being eliminated as a requirement, the content is placed into part of the new course, SOC 652 Sociological Statistics II. How will the quality and amount of research still be comparable? The paper in the second statistics course will be shorter but will still include and cover the same steps to research and writing that were handled in the Master’s Research Paper course.

A suggestion was made to add “statistics and research” to the course title or description to make the content clearer.

A motion was made to approve this proposal, conditionally, with the receipt of additional information in the course description to include the research aspect of the course. The motion was unanimously approved.

- ❖ Graduate Faculty Guidelines Subcommittee status--The subcommittee has met and is working on revising the guidelines. They will meet again before presenting a draft before Council. A three-tier model is being discussed: 1) a doctoral level, 2) a master’s level, 3) an unnamed level for teaching 500-level courses.

- 5. Graduate Council Representation & Standing Committees** – Available reports
 - a. Faculty Senate – Senate will be meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8.
 - b. University Admissions & Standards – No report, has not met yet
 - c. College of Graduate Studies' Admissions & Standards – No report
 - d. University Curriculum Committee – At the last meeting the Committee acted on several graduate proposals. The MUST STEM proposal, the Nursing and the Psychology proposals recently acted on by Council were approved.
 - e. Graduate Faculty Review Committee – No report
 - f. Petitions Committee – At the February meeting, 41 petitions were received. Most were approved.
 - g. Grade Dispute Committee – A meeting was held for a grade dispute and the Committee ruled in favor of the faculty member.
 - h. Program Review Committee – No report
 - i. University Research Council Committee – The Committee is meeting Friday, Feb. 10
- 6. Items for Future Discussion**
- 7. Announcement**
 - ❖ Dr. Thornton again shared a flyer and information concerning the library's recent purchase of a software program through Digital Commons for our institutional repository. Two workshops are scheduled for information and discussion.
- 8. Next Meeting:** The next Graduate Council meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in Parker-Hannifin Hall, Conference Room #200.
- 9. Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; adjourned at 3:00 p.m.