

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**
March 26, 2012

Present: Tim McDermott (AG), Charles Erickson (BUS) William Ruff (EHHD), CHAIR Warren Jones (ENGR), Carl Fox (Grad School), Yves Idzerda (Science), Jane Scharff (NURS), Chris Allen (CoE Student Rep).

Also attending were Graduate School staff Catherine Johnson, Kaylee Ranck and Donna Negaard, Jessica Jellison (ARCH), Steven Juroszek (ARCH), Rob Maher (ECE), Peg Wherry (EU) Lori Larson (EU), Donna Williams (NURS)

Meeting commenced at 11:13 am in 114 Sherrick.

Introductions

General introduction of those attending.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for February 27, 2012 – moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Open Campus Forum

Rob Maher communicated with Council a concern over ECE Programs of Study for Masters being sent back from The Graduate School for deficiencies.

- The deficiencies stem from the number of credits at the 4XX level appearing on the programs. In general ECE students carry 10cr of 4xx level: typical programs will have 10cr thesis, 12cr 5xx and 10cr 4xx level; totaling 32 credits. Maher would like for the 10cr of 4xx level to be administratively accepted given the programs are exceeding the minimum of 30 credit requirements for Masters.
- Current policy reads:

Masters:

Undergraduate (MSU 4XX) courses for Plan A students: Up to 9 credits at the 400-level are allowed on a graduate Program of Study under two circumstances:

They were taken as a graduate student, or

They were reserved for graduate credit as a bachelor degree seeking student.

Doctorate:

4XX level courses may be used on a Program of Study: a maximum of 9 credits are allowed.

- Discussion among Council commenced on how to proceed with the interpretation of the policy relative to all other programs.
- Council provided the following guidance for interpretation of the policy; Up to 10cr of 4xx level coursework be allowed if the remaining program meets the minimum of 21 credits of graduate coursework without the additional 1cr of 4xx coursework.

UGC Committee Reports

None

Nursing/ Donna Williams

Submitted proposal to change policy on requirements for chairs of graduate committees

- CoN will be offering its first Doctoral program (DNP) and the college is reviewing who will be qualified to chair their committees.
- DNP's will not be completing a dissertation. Instead they will complete professional projects (NRSG 675) as this will be a profession degree, not a research degree.
- Current policy requires chairs need to be on tenure/tenure-track faculty member in order to offer stability to students.

- CoN clinical faculty offer a lot of stability as they historically remain in place long term (30+ years). Williams pointed out that this is a clinical driven degree. Faculty who are active in the clinical arena actually present themselves as stronger chairs than PhDs who might have stepped away from the clinical arena. As program grows there will be continued workload stresses placed on the few tenure-track faculty members. Tenure/tenure-track faculty will still be a required to chair committees.
- Williams requested Council grant permission for the CoN to broaden the eligible Project Chairs to include PhDs, EdDs and DNPs. The College's current situation means this would increase their eligible chair count by three individuals immediately, with two in the pipeline.
- PhDs, EdDs and DNPs will receive due recognition for their participation on committees during their annual evaluation.

Motion to approve non-tenure track faculty to chair DNP programs was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Graduate School/Carl Fox

Doctoral policy interpretation of allowed time between comprehensive exams and graduation

- Should the clock begin at initiation or completion of comprehensive exam?
- Council discussed the pros and cons of the timeline for students.
- Council made the recommendation of the 5 year period to begin upon the completion of the last date of all components of the comprehensive exam.

Professional Practice of Architecture Certification program/ Steven Juroszek and Jessica Jellison

School of Architecture's proposal for a 15 credit graduate certificate program

- Cohort model looking to service students who have been out of school for 3 to 5 to 7 years and are wanting to develop their professional careers with additional education.
- Program has worked with Lori Larson at EU for the past year to develop the program's coursework offerings. Initial 9 credits consist of PMSEM business core courses and the remaining 6 credits would be primarily online with a face-to-face portion for presentation at the conclusion.
- Council discussed various items including resources for adjunct faculty and made recommendations on the proposal formatting before it is presented to Faculty Senate.

Motion to approve the 15 credit certification program was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Further Business

Carl Fox requested feedback from Council on how The Graduate School might communicate its role better with Departments and Faculty. Suggestions included:

- Hold face to face meetings verses increased email communication as many faculty members are overwhelmed with email volume.
- Meet with faculty and ask "What can we do to make your day easier?" to begin the conversation about what we do.
- Improve communication with graduate students themselves.
- Present a timeline showing how The Graduate School has changed and become more streamlined over time.
- Promote Service and Advocacy as our role.
- The Graduate School is currently scheduling meetings with each College this term and each Department for Fall 2012, in addition to developing an Ambassadors program.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Amanda Brown, Secretary
The Graduate School