

University Graduate Council Minutes

Monday April 07, 2014

9:00 am

Animal Bioscience Building Room 138

Council in Attendance:

Sarah Codd (Engineering)

Alan Dyer (Agriculture)

Michael Reidy (Ex Officio, Graduate Educ.)

Anne Christensen (Business)

John Borkowski (Sciences – CLS)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

Christopher Livingston (Arch –AA.)

Mary Miles (HHD – EHHD)

Tena Versaland (E alternate – EHHD)

Invited Guests:

Colleen Moore (Psychology Department)

Keith Hutchison (Psychology Department)

Jessi Smith (Psychology Department)

Graduate School

Amanda Brown (Graduate School)

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)

Erin Smith (Graduate School)

Absent:

William Ruff (E - EHHD)

Mary Murphy (Letters – CLS)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

- Meeting started at 9:10 am
Chair elect: Alan Dyer
- Introduction of new members- Dr. John Borkowski and Dr. Mary Miles
- No comments from campus
- March 24, 2014 minutes approved unanimously with no change
- Guest Presenter – Dr. Colleen Moore, Department Chair, Psychology
Level II Ph.D. in Psychological Science Proposal, handout provided
 - Introduction of Drs. Jessi Smith and Keith Hutchison of the Psychology department
 - Presentation of proposed Ph.D. in psychology
 - Committee member Christensen: will current funding shift from M.S. students to Ph.D. students
 - o The total number of students will be the same. Also anticipating fellowships.
 - Guest Hutchison: current GRA's have not been written into grants due to the students having a short span of only 2 years participation and limited time for productivity.
 - Committee member Reidy: projected enrollment?
 - o In 5 years anticipating 16 graduate students enrolled with a preference for the Ph.D. degree.

- Discussion ensued on required coursework of transferring students
 - o Depends on coursework transferred in and scope of field (research versus therapy)
 - o After M.S. in psychological science is earned the remaining coursework includes: 3 additional courses on books and dissertation hours.
- Committee member Codd: ratio of GTA to GRA 1:1 ratio eventually?
 - o Psychology team: The current numbers are conservative; with more grants, will come more GRAs
 - o Current “Brown Bag” Series is an evaluation tool/course that is a yearly requirement for students, not on the books as a course, due to tuition waiver/financial allocation hour reasons.
- Question raised about number of courses for Ph.D. discussion ensued.
- Chair Elect Dyer: what review/application process exists for new psychology degree (BOR) because the council doesn’t have the expertise to evaluate psychology courses (accreditation review board)
 - o Psychology team: Currently the M.S. degree models the first two years of a Ph.D. program.
- Committee member Reidy: how will MSU compete and how will the faculty handle the student load?
 - o Psychology team: niche based on research area of research professors, faculty strong and well-known, competitive
- Chair Elect Dyer: Other dept. support from outside psychology (CBN, engineering, EHHD, NAS)

Recommendations on proposal will be made in writing.

Council excused Psychology team (Moore, Hutchinson and Smith) from the meeting.

- Course load will change with the number of Ph.D. advisees
 - o Concern: Psychology dept. is small. Is it robust enough to sustain a ‘\satisfactory’ performing, competitive Ph.D. program?
- Is the teaching rigorous enough for a Ph.D. program? Fair for students vs. a bigger university?
 - o Committee member Codd: there are similarities with the engineering dept. For example, same faculty number and similar issues. Those taking on students switched to a 2,1 course load.
- Concerns were raised by council on the following items:
 - o Anecdotal vs. hard numbers
 - o Students interest in Ph.D. progression
 - o Research dollars to fund GRAs
 - o Is the UGC recommending that the Institution’s (Provost Office) investment be in a social science program, perhaps? How much does the Institution think this is going to cost? Investment for how long?

- It was suggested that the Psychology level II proposal be moved to the Curriculum Committee for further review.
 - Committee member Christensen: inquired about recommending adjustment for teaching loads depending on the number of research students taken on.
 - Committee member Reidy: motioned to assign in depth evaluation to curriculum committee and come back to UGC by 4/21/2014 with recommendations. Christiansen second. Motion passed.

Committee Updates and Reports

- Policy and Procedures Committee (Murphy, Shreffler-Grant, Borkowski)
 - Committee had not met
 - Shreffler-Grant will get committee to meet about videoconferencing issue
 - Committee needs a chair
- Curriculum Committee Report (Ruff, Livingston, Miles)
 - New members. limited access, haven't met
 - Dean Hoo reviewed requests as noted on agenda
 - Committee needs a chair.
- Governance Report (Dyer, Codd, Christensen, Reidy)
 - Graduate Faculty Status
 - Discussion of options, committee still looking into it
 - Will report comparable programs (national and regional) next meeting (4/21)
- Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am
- Next scheduled meeting: April 21, 2014 9:00-11:00am, Animal Biosciences Building Room 138