University Graduate Council Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2015  1:00 – 2:55 p.m.  Sherrick 103

Council in Attendance:
Alan Dyer, Chair (Agriculture)  John Borkowski, Vice Chair (Sciences)
Anne Christensen (Business)  Melissa Ragain (Arts)
Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)  Arthur Bangert (Education)
W. Randall Babbitt (Faculty Senate)  Mary Miles (Health & Human Development)
Theodore Lipfert (Arts)  Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:
Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)  Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)
Geraldine Govaerts (International Programs)

Absent:
Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)  Timothy LeCain (Letters)

- Meeting started at 1:05 p.m.

- January 21, 2015 minutes
  - Change to minutes: Meeting start time corrected to 1:05 p.m.
  - Chair Dyer called for approval, council member Ragain motioned, council member Al-Kaisy second
    - Unanimous approval

- Announcements
  - Review of Progress form
    - Passed at previous meeting
    - Added student signature line, term GPA, cumulative GPA, and affirmation that “The student has met with [their] committee”
    - Dean Hoo: Important in regards to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, appointing students, reporting “satisfactory progress”, and supporting the student
    - Concern: Art & Film departments do not have committees until end of 2nd year
      - This can be noted in the comment field on the form

- Old Business
  - Doctoral 12 credit beyond Master’s policy proposal (Discussion)
    - Suggestion: Should not apply to continuing/en route students
      - Counter: All doctoral students should take 12 original coursework credits
    - Policy is currently in use, but needs clarification in language
    - Chair Dyer called for approval as written, council member Miles motioned, council member Christensen second
      - Unanimous pass
      - Effective immediately
• Off-topic suggestion: Should policy proposals be sent to Graduate Coordinators ahead of UGC meetings? Whose responsibility?
  • Chair Dyer and Dean Hoo suggested that council members should be the filters for their respective departments/colleges

- Master’s credits toward doctoral degree policy proposal (Discussion)
  • New, lowered credit maximum is fairer to “Plan B” students
  • Policy will affect continuing students
    • Add language so that it will not affect them?
  • Chair Dyer called for approval that this policy will not affect continuing students, council member Babbitt motioned, council member Al-Kaisy second
    • Unanimous pass to amend
  • Council member Lipfert motioned to accept policy as written, council member Miles second
    • No vote
  • Chair Dyer called for a motion to delay vote on actual policy so that input from departments may be gathered; council member Babbitt motioned, council member Lipfert second
    • Unanimous pass to delay vote
    • Issues to be addressed by the Policy Committee and reported back to UGC at the next meeting

- One-credit Extension (OCE) policy (Discussion)
  • Film department uses the OCE frequently – estimated 40%-50% of students; concerned that they will lose students if forced to register and pay for 3 credits. The Art department is in agreement with this.
  • HHD also uses the OCE frequently
  • There is not faculty control over student completion at this time; cannot often estimate if the OCE is enough during time of dissertation
  • The OCE is useful for motivation as a second deadline
  • Most council members suggest keeping the OCE in place
  • What can be done to make the workload & processing involved with the OCE easier on The Graduate School?
    • Dean Hoo suggests tabling the issue to allow The Graduate School time to consider what can be done to make these processes easier.

- Commencement Participation for the One-credit Extension (OCE) (Discussion)
  • Are there separate allowances for Master’s and Doctoral students for the OCE?
  • Do not allow OCE students at the incorrect ceremony
  • The Graduate School still accepts appeals
  • Participation for Plan C (non-thesis) students. PACC often has students with one summer course (3 credits) left and wish to walk in the spring graduation because of how the program is set up
    • Dean Hoo offered to accept a list of PACC students for graduation each spring term

- Graduate Student Representative for UGC
  • Background from Governance Committee:
    • It is already written in the by-laws to have one graduate student representative and that the responsibility rotates around colleges
- Student representative has not had a voting right
  - **UGC feedback:**
    - Two students from two different fields for a minimum of one year would be useful for varied input, rather than rotating the role with one student
    - Important to have a doctoral student as a more fair representation of student body
    - Previously, student representative was not always a consistent presence, but UGC has had active and present student representatives
    - What is their role – Disseminate information? Weigh-in on issues?
    - How to find student representatives – Governance Committee will discuss and report at next meeting

- **New Business**
  - **Change in Grading Method for 590/690 credits (Discussion)**
    - Dean Hoo: Change from a Pass/Fail to a graded course for students’ graduation term; every other term, 590/690 credits will remain Pass/Fail
      - Should these credits have a different course number for last term? (i.e.: 691)
      - Should all 590/690 credits be graded until last term, when course reverts to Pass/Fail?
      - Would grading inflate some students’ GPAs?
    - Signature page no longer a part of the Thesis/Dissertation
      - Most council members lobby for return of signature page, as it helps with quality and completion
    - Dean Hoo proposes that the Report of Comprehensive Exam/Defense form should include a “Pass Conditionally” option
      - What would be the function of the new category?
      - Some council members are in support of this proposal
    - Policy & Procedures Committee will discuss the grading of 590/690 credit and report at the next UGC meeting

- **Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.**