UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018        11-12:30pm  Library CR1

Council in Attendance:
James Becker (Health & Human Development)        Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)                 Dennis Aig (Arts)
Robert Rydell (Letters)                             Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)
Marc Giullian (Business)                             Kathryn Bills (Student Representative)
Fabian Menalled (Agriculture)                       Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)
Tena Versland (Education)

Also in Attendance:
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Amanda Brown (Graduate School)
Rachel Anderson (Office of the Provost)
Kirk Branch (English)
David Carlisle (International Programs)

Absent:
John Borkowski (Sciences)
Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Meeting started at 11:05am

Jan 31, 2018 minutes
• Livingston moves, Menalled second, unanimous approval

Announcements
• Update: Faculty Senate (Babcock/Richards)
  o Absent, no update
• Dr. Rachel Anderson, Interim Assistant Provost of Assessment & Curriculum Management, Assessment Rubrics
  o Resource documents emailed to UGC; both documents will be posted on Provost’s website as a resource for departments that need help developing their program assessment plan
  o To be seen as a starting point; goal is to eventually be an online form
  o Assessment criteria should be meaningful to the department and program
  o Part of accreditation process (“continued quality improvement”)

Old Business
• Department Handbooks (Al-Kaisy)
  o At next meeting Chair Borkowski will likely have template to share with Council
• PHD CHME Proposal (Livingston)
• UGC questions were sent to Chemical Engineering; responses from Chemical Engineering were sent out to Council prior to today’s meeting
  • Livingston calls for final comments before asking for vote
    ▪ No comments from Council
  • Livingston moves to send proposal on to Faculty Senate, Aig second, unanimous approval

- 2018-2019 PhD Enhancement Awards (Hoo)
  • Received 12 proposals. Total request: 24 GTA lines
  • Discussion of scoring/proposals ensues
  • Suggested revisions to the scoring criteria

New Business
• Master of Arts in English Education (MAEE) proposal (Kirk Branch, English Department Head)
  • Proposal sent to Council with agenda
  • English made revisions to proposal but are not in CiM yet; Livingston will “rollback” proposal to English so changes can be made
  • Q: How did changes come about?
    ▪ English met with Education Department Head to address concerns raised by Education regarding potentially “duplicative” elements of the MAEE program
  • Q: What is role of English Department vs role of Education department? How does it work structurally?
    ▪ In English department there are two English Education faculty that primarily run the undergraduate program and work with Education department
    ▪ Education courses are available as electives
    ▪ Model is somewhat similar to the Math Education program in Math Sciences
    ▪ Department of Education does not play an administrative or advising role
  • Q: Resources?
    ▪ Provost has committed to a third faculty tenure track hire in English Education if proposal approved
  • Q: What concerns did Department of Education raise?
    ▪ Dr. Branch declines to speak for them; conversations regarding the role of Department of Education are ongoing
  • Livingston asks Council to send their comments/questions to him by Feb 20

• Master of Science in Data Science (MADS-MS) proposal (Livingston)
  • Proposal sent out to Council with agenda
  • Joint proposal from Mathematical Sciences and Gianforte School of Computing
  • Engineering is supportive of proposal as they see the need in their discipline for experts in data
  • Q: Will degree program be administered by Math or School of Computing?
    ▪ Not clear in the documentation
    ▪ May cause problems in consistency, course offerings, advising, and so forth
  • Q: Is there a benefit to have more or fewer master’s programs?
    ▪ Eventually there will be a master’s level program review similar to the doctoral program review that is occurring
  • Q: Would interdisciplinary MS program (like the interdisciplinary PhD) solve this issue?
    ▪ Maybe, but doesn’t yet exist
Interdisciplinary programs are the new norm, but careful consideration should be given to how the program is formed.

- Concern raised that “data science” might be buzzword without longevity
- Review and send comments to Livingston by Feb 20

Adjourned at 12:27 pm

Next scheduled meeting – February 28, 2018 at 11 am