

AGENDA
For
UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

Monday, April 21, 2014

9:00 a.m.

138 Animal Bioscience

Opening – 9:05 a.m.

Open Campus Forum – Comments from campus visitors

Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2014

Council Discussion

- Level II PhD in Psychological Science Proposal
- Letters of Recommendation

Committee Updates and Reports

- Policy and Procedures Committee (Murphy, Shreffler-Grant, Borkowski)
 - Video Conferencing Policy
 - Inactive Students

- Curriculum Committee Report (Ruff, Livingston, Myles)
 - * Course Changes: BIOE 521, NRSB 509
 - * Course Deletions: none
 - * New Course Requests: ARTH 591, EELE 517, EELE 584, NRSB 622, PSYX 505, PSYX 510

- Governance Report (Dyer, Codd, Christensen, Reidy)
 - o Graduate Committee composition wording

Discussion Items

- Nomination for Vice Chair of the UGC
- Confirmation of the Chair of the UGC
- Takeaways from the WAGS conference Spring 2014, Fargo, ND

End: 11:55 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting – TBD for fall 2014 term

*Documentation on UGC shared drive

Montana State University

University Graduate Council

Curriculum Committee Sub-Group: William Ruff, Mary Miles, Christopher Livingston

May 4, 2014

Review of Proposed Ph.D. in Psychological Science

Overview

On April 7, 2014, Dr. Colleen Moore, Department Chair of Psychology presented the Level II Ph.D. in Psychological Science proposal to the University Graduate Council. Immediately following the presentation the UGC discussed the proposal and continued discussing the proposal on April 21st. Overall the UGC found the proposal to have considerable merit and congratulates the department for developing this initiative. The proposal provides a strong case for the adoption of a Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences at MSU and aligns well with the current strategic plan for the University. While the UGC is generally in support of the proposal, it has identified several areas which we feel require further elaboration and clarification. These items are described in the seven points below.

1. Differentiate in the proposal both the pedagogic and structural differences between the current M.S. degree and the proposed Ph.D. program. It is unclear on section 3B, (p. 4 of 13) and 4B, (p. 5 of 13) if the M.S. program will remain a robust stand-alone degree program or will essentially be subsumed into the proposed Ph.D. program.
2. Consider broadening the reach of the program by taking advantage of the interdisciplinary resources available on campus. Of concern is the lack of new coursework that has been developed for the Ph.D. program. One suggestion would be to take advantage of EDLD 530 – College Teaching in lieu of the proposed PSYX 505 course. In this way, PSYX 505 could be restructured to contain a greater degree of discipline specific material. Other areas within the University, including the biosciences, should be considered as course opportunities for the program. The committee believes that this interdisciplinarity will aid in advancing the area of ‘Integration’ contained within the strategic plan of Montana State University.
3. Consider specifying an option for students to receive a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching. This would require students to take an additional 6 credits beyond the requirements of the PhD program.
4. Consider a benchmarking study of the proposed program with other Psychological Science doctoral programs in the United States and Canada. This may be done internally or through consulting an external review panel to assess the need, design and plans for the program. It is unclear how this program compares with other peer Ph.D. programs.
5. Delineate the degree of support within the department for this proposed program and how resources and faculty will be distributed to both the M.S. and Ph.D. programs. While the level of faculty research is articulated in several locations it is unclear how the department will distribute resources and faculty to the various programs in the department.
6. Expand on the implementation strategy to achieve the student number goals of the proposal. Specifically, how will the program increase student numbers within the financial support information provided in the proposal? It is unclear in section 5B, (p. 9-10 of 13) and 6A&B, (p. 10-12 of 13) if all students will be fully supported and whether these students will be supported through GRA positions and faculty grants or GTA positions through tuition remission funding.
7. As clarification, the minimum requirement for a Ph.D. with M.S. is 12 credits of coursework and 18-28 credits of dissertation beyond the Master’s degree. Section 5A, (p. 7 of 13) indicates that 10 credits of coursework must be beyond the Master’s degree.