

Minutes of **University Graduate Council**

April 21, 2009

Present: Tim McDermott (AG), Rollin Beamish (A & A), Bonita Peterson (BUS), William Ruff (EHHD), Warren Jones (ENGR), Carl Fox (DGE), Robert Bennett (L&S-Letters), CHAIR Yves Idzerda (L&S-Science), Rita Cheek (NURS), David Keto (STUDENT).

Also attending were MaryKay West (DGE), Terry Beauhois, and Richie Boyd.

Meeting commenced at 9:03 a.m. in 114 Sherrick.

Welcome

- Yves welcomed the two guests and all members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes for April 7, 2009 – moved, seconded and **unanimously approved**.

Open Campus Forum

- No one came forward.

New Graduate Certificate in Digital Media – Terry Beauhois

- a. Terry used the Board of Regents Level II format for the Certificate Proposal
- b. There is no similar program in the Montana region
- c. Graduate certificates are very focused on career goals
- d. The Certificate program will consider distance learning and include intensive workshops
- e. Assist GTAs to develop their teaching portfolios
- f. Estimate 50 students first year—but not know until it happens
- g. Core faculty has been decided—faculty could share teaching of a class—to give students different perspectives
- h. Scheduling of classes may need to be adjusted from the normal routine, as participants will include faculty and working people
- i. Create systems where students can work together from different locations using media
- j. Will look into whether classes would be open to students who want to take only one or two of the classes
- k. Will start as a certificate, and if demand grows, may go for a degree later
- l. Have had discussions with other departments to find out how this certificate would meet their needs
- m. “Home” for the certificate would be College of Arts and Architecture
- n. Would like to start in Fall 2009, but Spring 2010 might work better—need to line up faculty and courses (could also start courses in Fall and then formalize the certificate program)

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to **move forward on creating the Digital Media Certificate Program, providing Carl Fox obtains proof of feasibility and sustainability**. Approved by unanimous vote.

UGC Committee Reports: none.

DGE Staff Reports:

- MS in Computer Science Update
 - a. Does not need to go through Board of Regents
 - b. Memo from Dean Marley supports “courses only” MS—in future, make it part of MS of Engineering
- Research Expo
 - a. 50 graduate students participated
 - b. College of Letters and Science won the Research Cup and \$10,000 (agriculture was second, engineering was third)

Suspension and Non Degree Credits

- a. Currently, when a student is suspended, the students enrolls as a non degree—for 9 credits and must achieve a grade in each course of B or better
- b. Courses taken while non degree cannot be used towards a degree
- c. Change--courses taken as a non degree student may count towards the student's degree Program

Motion: Motion was made and seconded that the policy be changed to **Courses taken as non degree while a student is on suspension can be counted towards their degree.** Approved by unanimous vote.

Probation / Suspension Policy for GTA / GRA / GSA

- a. Change third paragraph of the Probation/Suspension Policy for GTAs/GRAs/GSAs to read “GTA and GRA / GSA”
- b. Allow one time exception when the graduate assistants' GPA falls below 3.0
- c. GTA / GRA / GSA are awards, not employment

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to **allow a one time exception, granting one additional semester of support as a graduate assistant if the student's semester or cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0.** Approved by unanimous vote.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

- a. For MS, continuous enrollment starts after course work is completed or after comprehensive exam

- b. For PhD, continuous enrollment starts after passing any part of the comprehensive exam
- c. A number of students need to be GTAs in the summer but have used up their 3 leaves; department cannot afford tuition waivers so student has to pay for the 3 credits to be a GTA
- d. 71% of grads are now part time
- e. Could the "3 leaves" rule not include summer?
- f. Carl to talk to department heads to see if there would be any unintended responses regarding summer funding
- g. An alternative could be to reduce the number of required summer credits from three to one.

Elections

- a. Yves reported that the main duty of the Chair is to keep the meeting on time; the Chair also meets with Carl to discuss UGC agenda
- b. Nominations: Tim McDermott for Chair and William Ruff for Vice Chair
- c. Both accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

MaryKay West, Secretary
Division of Graduate Education