UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES

October 8, 2020                 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.       WEBEX

Council in Attendance:
Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Mark Pernarowski (Letters & Science)
Tricia Seifert (Education)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Bradford Watson (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Anne Christensen (Business)
Que Vo (International Programs)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Doralyn Rossmann (Library)

Also in Attendance:
Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Emily Peters (Graduate School)

Absent:
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)

Meeting started at 1:03 pm on WebEx

September 24, 2020 minutes
  • Motion to approve by Aig, 2nd by Seifert, unanimously passed

Announcements
  • Update from the Dean
    o 3 financial assistance applications currently open for grad students: childcare
      scholarships, food scholarships, and assistance for international students
    o Closed completion grant application: 1 semester of support for students to concentrate
      on finishing dissertation; received 15 applications
    o GTA/GRA annual review process: contact Dean Ogilvie to volunteer
    o Center for Faculty Excellence hosting “What Your Students Want You to Know...About
      Being a Graduate Student” via Webex: Tuesday, October 13th at 1:00 p.m.

  • Faculty Senate update (Watson)
    o COVID taskforce: targeting end of the month to put out findings and recommendations
    o Graduate courses and certificate went forward to second reading

WEBEX
Old Business

- **Cybersecurity MS, Level II program proposal**
  - Proposer responded back to UGC’s questions—these were forwarded to council and added as an attachment to the proposal
  - Call for comments:
    - Discussion on adding programs during these unusual times: Do you build the program with the expectation of getting resources later? Or wait until the resources are there?
      - Clarification that we are in a hiring moratorium, not a freeze
        - The resources question is important for this specific program, but the campus is continuing to build programs
      - The new faculty would fill 2 vacant faculty positions
        - This would be helpful to clarify in the proposal
    - The difference between this master’s level program and the AAS/CAS programs could be strengthened
      - Master’s prepared students will be able to design the infrastructure. The Gallatin College program prepares students to maintain/operate.
      - This could potentially be added to the learning outcomes
    - Q: Approval and launch of the program were decoupled?
      - A: Can find out what this means
      - Could make sense to go forward with developing the program, but pause on the launch of the program until the new faculty are hired
    - Q: Why not add a master’s degree and an undergraduate degree – given the co-convened courses – to create a larger draw?
      - A: Prefer undergraduate background in Computer Science. Cybersecurity specialty at the graduate level.
      - It would be valuable to explain this in the proposal
    - Q: Why then are they co-convening courses?
      - A: To open some of these courses to the undergraduate students
    - Q: How much difference is there between the Computer Science and Cybersecurity MS programs?
      - A: These classes could be taken by CS students
  - Will forward these additional questions and ask for the entire proposal to be revised with this information (not just added as an attachment)
    - Important to add this information into the proposal as it goes forward through the process

- **Graduate Certificate Policy:** Tabled – subcommittee is working on this

- **Removing central requirement for doctoral coursework past master’s (Ogilvie):**
  - Review proposal: allow departments and committees flexibility to determine the coursework needed beyond a master’s by removing the central requirement for 12 additional coursework credits beyond a master’s degree
    - Feedback has been largely positive
  - Q: Are all students required to finish comps before taking 690s?
    - A: Depends on the department
    - Departments would not have to change their existing procedures – this just removes the central requirement
Q: Does this open up possible of abuse of the policy?
   - A: Could be possible a faculty member has a student do research only that could have benefited from additional coursework

Reviewed the language in the policy proposal:
   - Delete the 12-credits of additional coursework required beyond a master’s degree
   - Accordingly, would also increase the maximum dissertation credits from 28 to 30

Tarabochia motions to approve the policy revisions, 2nd by Wittie
   - 9 in favor, 0 opposed, unanimously approved

**New Business**

- **UGC role description for CiM**: Tabled

- **PhD in Indigenous & Rural Health, Level II program proposal**
  - Call for comments:
    - Great institutional fit for MSU; existing grants in this area
    - Confusion of the “Indigenous” and “Rural” terms in the proposal
      - Clarification about this might help differentiate the program from Missoula
      - Name comes from an existing program
      - Rural covers anyone of any ethnicity living in a rural area
        - Would dissertations combine both or could they focus on one or the other?
    - Explanation of difference with Missoula could be strengthened
    - The point that the new program would be both in person and online is not a particularly strong argument of distinction; UM could easily change this
    - Could attach the other program in the appendix and point out the differences
    - MSU already had a master’s in Community Health before UM added their master’s level program
      - The concern over duplication is in regards to UM’s PhD program in Public Health
    - We should not necessarily be deterred by similar programs if 1) it would be good for the state to have the program offered by MSU 2) it is good for the students 3) the program is fiscally sound
    - BOR will scrutinize duplication; raise these questions to help prepare the proposers down the line
    - Worth mentioning that MSU is developing a center for Indigenous studies
    - Really clarifying the rural health aspect could also be a distinguishing factor from general public health
    - Limited Native American letters of support
    - Consider 21 credits in the other tracks, but only 15 credits from a community health MS
    - Potential typo: the nursing track says “BSN” rather than “MSN”
    - No description of what would happen if someone didn't have a master's; may be an entrance requirement to have master's, but this was not clearly stated
    - Requirement for one of the dissertation options: 3 first author papers seemed like a strict requirement, especially in a collaborative interdisciplinary program
    - Single course for Indigenous and rural health. Could make the program even more distinct by adding more Indigenous and rural health specific courses
- Very Montana specific—may be better to describe as a global program with applications to Montana, so students can take this degree to other rural areas
- Extensive elective choices could be clarified
  - American Studies might be a good model—has a very interdisciplinary program with advisors in different colleges and a lot of elective options
- Livingston will send questions to the proposer and invite the proposer to the next meeting to answer some of the big picture questions

- Co-convening, first discussion on possible limits
  - Topic raised at the last accreditation review was that there is no policy on number of co-convened courses in a graduate program of study
  - Discuss both extremes of co-convening
    - All courses co-convened: not a good graduate school experience
    - No co-convening: small or new programs may be negatively impacted
  - Create a policy to set some sort of ground rules
    - Difficult to review on a per student basis: co-convened courses are listed as 5xx
    - Could review at program level
      - Example: No more than 1/3 of the required or elective courses could be co-convened
      - Balance between experience of graduate student and making sure we don’t inadvertently hurt some of our smaller programs
  - 50% of courses in one of the Cybersecurity tracks are proposed as co-convened
  - Consider any implications within your own department
  - Council will discuss in the future and then send to the policy sub-committee to draft language

Adjourned at 2:28 pm

Next scheduled meeting – October 22, 2020 WEBEX