

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES Friday, June 13, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE: Baumgarth, Britt, Caswell-Chen, Farrens, Farnham, Gibeling, Goodhue, Golub, Gunion, Hodgson, Knoesen, Kuhl, Schank.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Albrecht, Aquilar, Beauchamp, Bhushan, Cuevas, Hirshen, Hunter, Jurado, Leal, Macri, Mehta, Mueller, Shi, Timm.

GUESTS: Jay Rosenheim, Ines Hernandez-Avila, Joan Cadden, Richard Bostock.

Began at 9:15 am

SPECIAL DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

A. Program Review – Plant Pathology Graduate Program.

The review of the Plant Pathology Graduate Program was presented by the PRC Liaison for the review, Professor Jay Rosenheim. Professor Rosenheim gave the Council highlights of the recommendations in the PRC Report.

Council was concerned that an issue from the last program review was still an issue in the current review—TA training and practice. Council affirmed that uniform training should be implemented, and students should have the opportunity as TAs to perform broad and complex duties, as opposed to the simple set-up and take-down of labs. Council also discussed that it appears that the seminar exit policy is not being followed, and that the program is operating under degree requirements that have not been approved by the Council. Council requests that degree requirements be submitted for approval, even if there are courses in the approval process through the courses committee. Council affirmed that students cannot be held to degree requirements that have not been approved by Council.

The Council gave its commendations to Professor Rosenheim for his efforts on behalf of the Graduate Council. The program will be requested to respond to council on its progress towards the recommendations by mid-November 2008.

MOTION: to accept

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

B. Program Review – English Graduate Program.

The review of the English Graduate Program was presented by the PRC Liaison for the review, Professor Ines Hernandez-Avila. Professor Hernandez-Avila gave the Council highlights of the recommendations in the PRC Report.

Council expressed some concern regarding how members are appointed to the Executive Committee, and asked for clarification on whether members in the program had rights in the selection of members to the committee. Council also discussed that the addition of faculty from diverse backgrounds, and courses in more diverse or ethnic-based literary areas would attract more first-rate students from diverse backgrounds. Council also discussed that the program may want to make more clear to students in

their program how to establish residency, as the impact of high Non-Resident Tuition was stated as a roadblock by some students.

The Council gave its commendations to Professor Hernandez-Avila for her efforts on behalf of the Graduate Council. The program will be requested to respond to Council on its progress towards the recommendations by mid-November 2008.

MOTION: to accept

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

C. Program Review – Art History Graduate Program.

The review of the Art History Graduate Program was presented by the PRC Liaison for the review, Professor Joan Cadden. Professor Cadden gave the Council highlights of the recommendations in the PRC Report. Professor Cadden stated that the review found the program has made great changes since the last review, making the program more realistic and consistent, and that the review team felt this was now a solid and productive program that serves students well.

Council discussed the review committee's recommendation that this program should be retained "as-is" in light of new program proposals; a new PhD program is in the planning stages. Professor Cadden remarked that the students enrolled in the Masters receive very good funding, and some of the funding from TA-ships/Reader-ships may be lost to PhD students. Council questioned Professor Cadden on whether recommendation number one to retain this program was made in the light of the Masters Only policy from the Graduate Council. Professor Cadden affirmed that the recommendation was made with those guidelines in mind, and that those guidelines also informed the PRC recommendation on retaining the thesis option that fulfills an important educational niche in the professions which the students are destined to enter. Council also discussed the recommendation regarding the appointment of a GSR to assist with the program handbook and website; Council felt this was only appropriate if the position was curatorial in nature, and not clerical.

The Council gave its commendations to Professor Cadden for her efforts on behalf of the Graduate Council. The program will be requested to respond to council on its progress towards the recommendations by mid-November 2008.

MOTION: to accept

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

D. Program Review – Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Graduate Program.

The review of the Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology Graduate Program was presented by the PRC Liaison for the review, Professor Richard Bostock. Professor Bostock gave the Council highlights of the recommendations in the PRC Report. In particular, Professor Bostock mentioned that the program offers an impressive breadth and diversity of program offering, as well as distinguished faculty and engaged students.

Council discussed an issue that arose in reviewing this program—that if a student is on rotation in a position funded by a block grant, faculty cannot pay NRTF (unless that faculty member has non-federal funds). Council expressed some concern that the program was operating under degree requirements that were approved in 1995, and

requested that the program submit revised degree requirements for Council review if they have informally revised their degree requirements since the 1995 date.

The Council gave its commendations to Professor Bostock for his efforts on behalf of the Graduate Council. The program will be requested to respond to council on its progress towards the recommendations by mid-November 2008.

MOTION: to accept

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS (Continued from July 11, 2008 Meeting)

A. Air Quality Research Center Interim Review.

This is a carry-over item from the June 11, 2008, Graduate Council meeting. The Chair of the Council, Jack Gunion, provided a draft letter, addressed to the Chair of the Academic Senate, that contains the Council's comments on the review of the Air Quality Research Center ORU. Council members discussed the fact that this is an interim 3-year review, and that once the full 5-year review is completed the Council will want to see details regarding the ORU's impact on graduate education.

MOTION: to approve draft letter from Chair

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

B. EPC recommendation on capstone experience/comprehensive exams.

Council discussed the fact that while many graduate programs that offer a Plan II master's degree have a comprehensive exam at the end of year one, they do not necessarily have a "capstone experience" as defined by CCGA. (See the May 14, 2008 Graduate Council meeting minutes, page 4, for more on the CCGA capstone requirement.) The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) recommendations (attachment 10.6) offer options to programs to come into compliance with the capstone requirement. Council affirmed that while the EPC recommendations will help most programs address this issue in their revised degree requirements, there will be some programs that will need to request alternatives to meet their individual program requirements. Council also discussed that these recommendations are predicated on a two-year master's degree, and that one-year programs have the option to propose alternatives. Council also affirmed that CCGA states that programs can come into compliance with the capstone requirement when they submit revised degree requirements or when they are reviewed (this requirement will also be a part of the review process). Council requested that the Dean of Graduate Studies include this information in his summer newsletter to program chairs.

MOTION: to adopt EPC recommendation on capstone experience and comprehensive exam with suggested language revisions

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

C. English Bylaws – Revised

The revised bylaws for the English graduate program were not available for review at this meeting; they will be considered in the fall quarter.

D. Neuroscience Bylaws - Revised.

Council discussed that the sections in the bylaws on quorum and amendments were inconsistent with each other, and also that the section labeled “Qualifying Examination Committee” should instead be “Preliminary Examination Committee.” Council affirmed that approval of the Neuroscience bylaws is subject to the program accepting Council’s proposed revisions.

MOTION: to approve contingent on revisions to quorum and preliminary exam committee language

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS (New)**A. Conservation Management - Proposal for a new Graduate Academic Certificate.**

Council expressed some concern that this certificate may overlap with existing graduate programs. Council also discussed the stated requirement that a “student conduct their thesis or dissertation research in conjunction with some conservation entity”; Council stated that certificates are supposed to be free standing and not connected to any particular program or department, and that this requirement imposed upon the major professor. Council also discussed that some language revisions should be made to make the certificate more inclusive of all students, and that the title should be revised to state “Graduate Academic Certificate” not degree.

MOTION: to approve contingent on separating the requirement on thesis/dissertation, and language revisions

MOTION PASSED: 8-0-1

B. Writing, Rhetoric, and Composition Studies - Proposal for a new Designated Emphasis.

Council agreed that this proposal appears to be very thorough, and noted that it was forwarded to the full Council by EPC without reservation.

MOTION: to approve

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE CONCERNS.

Dean Gibeling announced that Graduate Commencement was very successful, and that the 4:00 p.m. start time was very well received by all. Dean Gibeling also stated that it looks to be a difficult budget year, with the campus obligated to cover fee increases for TAs and committed to continuing the 25% buy-down for GSR fees and nonresident tuition. Dean Gibeling also stated that because the Provost has not funded all graduate student support priorities, he has chosen the block grant as a place to

prioritize investments. The Dean also stated that due to budget shortfalls, he will have to discontinue the fourth year funding for the students on three year external fellowships. Dean Gibeling also announced that the Office of Graduate Studies is going to offer workshops for students and faculty on tips and techniques to apply for and be awarded external fellowships.

Graduate Student Association Chair James Hodgson announced that GSA made some recreation improvements to the old computer room in the South Silo, and that GSA will continue coffee/bagel/donut day during the summer.

Program Review Committee Annual Report for 2007-08 and PRC Concerns.

Council had a lengthy discussion on issues raised in the PRC report related to administrative support for Graduate Council subcommittees. Council expressed concern that with vacancies and budget cuts, the administrative support required by the committees, especially the Program Review Committee, may not be met. Council and the Office of Graduate Studies affirmed that a staff person would need to be in place by fall, and that the functions of the position need to be reorganized. Specifically, the Council said that the needs of the committee are more logistical than analytical. Council affirmed that Graduate Council and its committees have been well-served over the years, but that there were some challenges for the PRC members this year which should be avoided in the coming year.

MOTION: to approve

MOTION PASSED: unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.