

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES
March 19, 2012

The Graduate Council met at 12:30pm in 129 Himes Hall with the following members present: Byerly (ex officio), Culross, Day, Dow, Euba, Gaunt, Hirschheim, Kelso, Lemieux, Liu, Matthews, Meng, Nardo and Spivey. Absent members were Bosworth, Holton, and McKillop.

Minutes of December 7, 2011

Minutes were approved for the December 7, 2011 meeting. Hirschheim moved for approval, Kelso seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dean's Report

Byerly welcomed new council members, Anna Nardo and Rita Culross, and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the Graduate Council.

The Online Degree Initiative committee is preparing an RFP for the University to send to vendors. The degree programs will be offered online with an external vendor. The start of these programs will be next academic year.

The Faculty Senate has a few items that will be discussed with the Council at a future meeting. Byerly hopes to meet with members of the Faculty Senate.

Graduate Faculty members being asked to serve as dean's representatives and decline service will be asked to serve again. If a graduate faculty member continues to decline service, the college dean and department chair of the faculty member will be informed. They will then inform the faculty member that as a member of the graduate faculty they have a responsibility to serve as dean's representatives.

Information regarding the proposed changes of I-grades and TOEFL to be included in the next bulletin has been posted on moodle. Approval from the Graduate Council is not necessary for these items. If any questions on either item, the council can discuss at the April 2nd meeting.

The Graduate School has been reorganized and more additional information will be sent to the faculty at a later date. Admissions and Records are under Renee Renegar and is called Student Services. The goal of the Graduate School is to move to 100% paperless by next year.

Degree programs are encouraged to develop concentrations within the existing degrees. This will assist students to earn more than one degree in the same program if a different concentration. Concentrations are listed on a student's transcript. For approved concentrations, 30% of the degree program must focus on the concentration. For example, RNR has five concentrations that were originally low completer programs. The department developed one degree with five separate concentrations.

Certificate programs will be developed by the academic departments and the Graduate Council. The beginning certificate programs will be in community engagement, public health, project management, and sustainability. Certificate programs will be 12-18 hours (departments would

decide on required number of hours). Students earning the certificates will be allowed to attend graduation. Academic Affairs has agreed with the idea of certificate programs. The Board of Regents would need to approve each certificate program. Some courses for certificate programs may be on-line or some may be during nontraditional hours.

Byerly indicated three reasons why certificate programs are necessary:

- Doctoral students have difficulty obtaining jobs in areas they were not trained in; therefore, certificates will help with employment.
- Certificates may also be an on-ramp for people reluctant for a five year master's degree program or a seven year doctoral degree program. A certificate program would assist students in having a shorter period of time to complete the program. Students' employers or family resources would be able to assist students in paying for the costs of certificate programs. The 12-18 hours required is manageable for these students. The certificate programs could be a stepping stone for those wanting to go into a graduate degree program.
- Certificate programs would engage people as lifelong learners.

Certificate programs would attract non-traditional students and those wanting advanced degrees with advanced requirements. Students would need to apply to the Graduate School as if they were applying for a typical degree with the same requirements. Courses taken in a certificate program could be applied to a graduate degree program; however, the existing Graduate School regulations would apply.

At a future meeting, Byerly would like to discuss two issues. Potential graduate students try to apply to degrees that they have already earned either at an international university or a university in the United States.

- Students with international degrees that are not equivalent to a US bachelor's degree may take courses as an undergraduate student until enough hours earned equals a bachelor's degree. After a student has meet the course requirement, he may apply to a graduate program.
- Students may repeat graduate level degrees, if the degree is 30% different from original degree. The content would need to be outlined to show the difference in concentrations. A different curriculum in the degree program. Academic Affairs has agreed that the Graduate School should allow a second degree. A clearer policy needs to be developed. Twelve hours from the previous degree program may count towards the second degree. The remaining courses must be different than the courses taken for the first degree. Departments have indicated an interest in repeat degrees for students.

Chairs Report

After the December 7, 2011 meeting, an email ballot was emailed to the Graduate Council members. The Council approved Lou Day to be the Graduate Council Chair. The Medical Physics concentration was approved. The pending Graduate Faculty nominations were also approved. All three items had 12 Graduate Council members vote and approve.

The goal for the semester is the efficiency of the Graduate Council. Announcements will be published through moodle prior to the meetings. Council members may read and review prior to the meeting.

The Faculty Senate's proposal to have the Graduate Council elected and not appointed may come back through the Council for discussion. The Graduate Council is an advisory committee to the Graduate School Dean.

Routine Business

Standing Committee Reports

Promotion and Tenure Committee: The committee reviewed one packet last week. Gaunt is the new committee chair. The busy time for this committee will be in December.

Graduate Faculty: No report.

Awards Committee: Lemieux, committee chair, reported the committee has already reviewed EDA and Perkins Awards. The Dissertation Fellowship awards are due in April.

Old Business

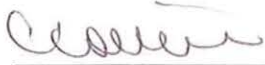
Master Degree Changes: has been deferred to the April 30th meeting.

New Business

Biological Sciences and Geology Departments proposals to participate in the Wetland Ecology and Restoration minor: The minor is in effect and these departments would like to be added to the existing minor. There is an established committee to oversee the minor. Hirschheim moved to approve, Euba seconded, and the motion was carried.

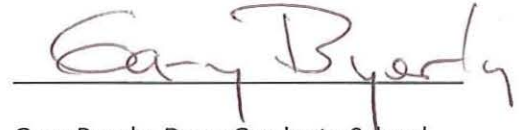
The meeting adjourned.

Recorded by:



Chantelle Collier, Assistant to the Dean

Approved by:



Gary Byerly, Dean Graduate School