

Graduate Council Minutes
Mendenhall Student Center 221
January 14, 2013
2:00 – 4:00 PM

GC Members Present: Atkinson, Terry; Bickley-Green, Cynthia; Coddington, Charles; Cox, Kathy; Decker, Jim; Eble, Michelle; Franklin, Rich; Gares, Paul; Gemperline, Paul; Griffin, Linner; Keiper, Brett; McFadden, Cheryl; Morehead, Andrew; Pokorny, Marie; Pressler, Jana; Preston, Ron; Reisch, John; Ries, Heather; Russoniello, Carmen; Schwager, Paul; Skalko, Thomas; Sprague, Mark; Thompson, Bob; Walker, Marianna; West, Terry; Michael Wheeler; and Xiaoming Zeng

GC Members Absent: Harer, John; Lamson, Angela; Mott, Vivian; Ozan, Erol; Rachlin, Sid; Terjanian, Anoosh; and Hans Vogelsong

GC Guests: McConnell, Tom; and Belinda Patterson

1. Call meeting to order
 - 2:05 PM
 - Dr. West introduced Dr. Xiaoming Zeng, Chair of Health Services & Information Management, new member of GC representing College of Allied Health Sciences
2. Approval of the 11/19/2012 GC minutes
 - Approved
3. Approval of the 12/05/2012 GCC minutes
 - Action Items:
 - Request to terminate existing certificate: Certificate in EAP counseling
 - Revision of Existing Degree: MM in Performance
 - Prerequisite Revision of Existing Courses: SPAN 5440, 5445, 5550, 5700
 - Editorial Revision of Existing Courses: PSYC 6521, 6815, 6970, 8416
 - Revision of Departmental Text: Department of Psychology
 - Title Revision of Existing Degree: MA, Psychology, General-Theoretic (to MA, Industrial and Organizational Psychology)
 - Revision of Existing Degree: MA, Psychology, General – Theoretic; MA in Clinical Psychology; MA in School Psychology, PhD in Health Psychology
 - Deletion of Existing Concentration: Academic, Industrial/Organizational
 - Proposal of New Courses: PLAN 605, 6040, 6075
 - Renumbering and Revision of Existing Courses: PLAN 5025 (to 6055), PLAN 5045 (to 6045), PLAN 5062 (to 6065)
 - Deletion of Existing Courses: PLAN 5035, 5121, 5131
4. Early Assurance Admission to Audiology ,Physical Therapy and College of Business for Selected Honors College (Dr. Richard Eakin) – Update
 - Dean Gemperline received the memorandum from Dr. Eakin, Interim Dean of the Honors College, describing admissions and selection process and criteria used to select students to the Honors College early assurance program

- A memo recommending approval from Dean Gemperline with GC approval has been forwarded to the Academic Council; timing critical as students are to be admitted in January.
5. Faculty Mentor Award – Update
- Motion to approve the nomination form – Approved
 - Dean Gemperline is in discussion with VC Ron Mitchelson in regards to the dollar amount of the award
 - The award will be implemented this semester/year via Qualtrics for submission; a software development request has been submitted to ITCS for an improved submission process in future years
 - The nomination process originates with graduate students; there was some discussion that although in some instances this should go smoothly, Graduate Program Directors should be notified of the process and of deadlines, to facilitate the nomination process where need be
 - There was general agreement of the GC that the current ad hoc development committee for this award will serve as the first selection committee also; there was also agreement that there will be some changes next year to ensure near equal weighting of college representation on the committee, as best can be achieved depending on the size of the committee and the number of volunteers
6. Assistantship Allocation – Feedback on the Process
- Reallocation data has been distributed to deans, associate deans, and meetings with Graduate Program Directors and Chairs is being scheduled as requested
 - This has been a very challenging process for all
 - A question was asked as to the reason that implementation was distributed over two years - this happened in one instance, and occurred at the request of one of the units involved
7. Thesis & Dissertation Approvals, Fall 2012
- In the time that Dr. Gemperline has served as Dean of the Graduate School, beginning in December 2008, there have been five theses/dissertations that have been sent back to the units as unsatisfactory in the form in which they were officially submitted to the graduate school (one involving lack of federally required human experimentation pre-approval)
 - This fall, 2012, two qualitative research student theses were sent back to the school/department/program for consultation after review revealed below standard quality work, substantiated by independent review by an acknowledged expert
 - There was general agreement among the key administrative parties involved that the student should be switched to their non-thesis track, with course substitutions accepted, to graduate on-time, with additional work for a converted capstone-type project related to the thesis
 - The issue was later brought to the Faculty Senate; discussions at a number of levels supported the action of the graduate school
 - The GCEC was apprised of the situation and brought up to date prior to bringing this matter to the GC

- Questions were raised as to the responsibility of student advisory committee members that sign the theses/dissertations; the graduate dean often works in a consultative role in this process, relying on chairs and graduate program directors rather than confronting the student advisory committee members; nonetheless, perhaps at the least unit chairs should be notified and a memo should be sent to committee members when such an incident occurs
- The need for a statement in the Faculty Manual on the role of the dean in approving theses and dissertations was brought up as a best practice
- Outside “Readers” with some level of writing and sometimes subject-specific experience are used at other universities for thesis and dissertation quality review, sometimes in paid positions; a question was raised as to “who” and “how” were these individuals paid
- Other possibilities for extended review of theses and dissertations were mentioned, including requiring external graduate faculty “outside” reviewers to sit in on numerous stages of the process, but caution was urged on imposing another significant burden on the graduate faculty population when these instances are relatively rare (less than 1%), with perhaps notice made to graduate faculty to be vigilant when serving on graduate student advisory committees
- The department chair also signs off on the theses/dissertations; consideration of a review at this stage, although concern was expressed about the number of products that would need to be reviewed in some units
- Any suggestions on improvements for this process should be emailed to Terry West who will report on feedback received at the next GC meeting along with proposed improvements

Adjourned 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Patterson and Tom McConnell