

Graduate Council Meeting Agenda
Mendenhall Student Center 244
September 16, 2013
2:00-4:00 PM

Voting Members Present: Atkinson, Terry; Benfield, Rebecca; Bickley-Green, Cynthia; Coddington, Charles; Croskery, Thom; Franklin, Rich; Harer, John; Gares, Paul; Lamson, Angela; Mott, Vivian; Pokorny, Marie; Preston, Ron; Reisch, John; Ries, Heather; Thompson, Bob; Vogelsong, Hans; West, Terry; and Michael Wheeler

Ex-officio Members Present: Decker, Jim; Greer, Annette; Reaves, Rita

Voting Members Absent: Cox, Kathy; Donica, Denise; Keiper, Brett; Ozan, Erol; Russoniello, Carmen; Schwager, Paul; Skalko, Tom; Terjanian, Anoush

Ex-officio Members Absent: Andrew Morehead

Guests Present: Ashley, Robin; Epley, Norma; Patterson, Belinda

1. Call meeting to order
2:04 PM
2. Approval of the 8/26/2013 GC minutes
Approved
3. Approval of the 9/4/2013 GCC minutes
 - Approved
 - Further discussion of 5000 level courses at the Faculty Senate
4. Request for time extension: CRM PhD student-
 - Approved revised timeline for completion setting an initial meeting with committee no later than November 2013 to define all expectations and discuss completion of comprehensive exam as soon as possible with understanding that expectations must be met in order to continue. No further extensions will be allowed.
 - Approved 12-5
5. GCEC recommendations on planning for election of new Graduate Council members
 - a. Qualifications:
 - The GCEC is in agreement that only directors/coordinators or those having equivalent experience with graduate program administration at the unit level, curriculum development, and advising should qualify for council membership
 - Faculty Manual will not change
 - b. Other process matters

If an individual's role changes in their unit during their 3 year elected term they will be able to finish out their term

6. For discussion

a. Waiver of GRE requirement

- Directors of the MS in Social Work and the MS in Health Informatics have requested that the GRE be waived for a particular group of applicants
 - GCEC recommended 3 criteria be met in order for the GRE to be waived:
 - 1.) the group of applicants is a special population of high-performing students;
 - 2.) there is historical data supporting the graduate success of this population of students; and
 - 3.) a study will be carried out to determine if similar practices occur at ECU's peer institutions.
- Discussion points:
 - Waiving the GRE helps reduce barriers to enrollment
 - Consensus among the GC that the GRE is not a significant barrier for graduate enrollment
 - Concern this will reduce overall GRE averages for a program if high-achieving students are exempt from the exam
 - Implementation of this practice would be a shift in institutional policy
 - Must establish a bar of sound educational practice
 - Competitive advantage does not apply

b. Withdrawal policy revision

Review and discussion. Policy statement will be presented for approval at the next GC meeting.

7. Report of Doctoral program directors meeting 09/03/13

a. Review and discussion of draft documents:

- i. Draft doctoral candidacy requirements
- ii. Draft of revision and implementation of time limit policy
- iii. Draft application for candidacy form

b. Revisions:

- Add ECU ID to both documents
- Correct "graduate" misspelling

c. Revised drafts will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

8. Report of graduate program directors and coordinators meeting 9/05/13

- Dr. McConnell will survey graduate faculty via program directors for input about plus/minus grade system and implications for implementation at the graduate level.
- Request for additional information about the cost of implementation of the plus/minus system at the undergraduate level

9. Report on graduate enrollment marketing and recruiting efforts for 2-13-2014

- Graduate enrollment headcount down by 300 students; experiencing declines since 2009; Chancellor, the Academic Council and the Board of Trustees are concerned with the enrollment decline
- Declines are not exclusive to teacher training programs – declines in other areas
 - Growth experienced in some areas
- Official headcount data will be distributed next week;
- Each department is asked to report to the Graduate School their fall 2013 enrollments, if they met or exceeded their target goal for the fall , explain why or why not , and give 3 or 4 strategies that will be used to achieve enrollment growth goals
- Graduate School will conduct another recruitment workshop in October for all program directors and coordinators

10. Report of SACS on-site review: 18 hr rule and in-classroom assessment of graduate teaching assistants of record

- On-site reviewers requested teaching evaluations
- All graduate programs with graduate teaching assistants as instructors of record must have a record of in-class teaching observations and assessments
- The Graduate School will randomly audit assessments of graduate teaching assistants at the end of each term. If a program doesn't have teaching assessments on file when randomly audited , they will be requested to show 100% of the classroom observations for all graduate teaching assistants the subsequent semester

11. Announcements

12. Adjourned

4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tripp

Request to strike language “undergraduate students” and clarify that any undergraduate objectives will be forwarded to the undergraduate committee

Change language to be clear on who does what

Provides a mechanism for 5000 level courses to be revised and created and congruent with SACS principles

Reported at the UCC -- 3 undergraduate programs that currently require 5000 level courses

Practices evolved at university that is not congruent with ECU catalog – institutional integrity issue –administrative matter regarding admission to courses

Need policy of approval and revision of courses – make sure the course is designed for graduate students

Different learning outcomes trying to give faculty more flexibility in continuing to use 5000 level courses the way they are doing so now