Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Members (14): Thomas Drummer (Math), Keat Ghee Ong (Biomed), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Zhenlin Wang (CompSci), Greg Waite (Geo), Kari Henquinet (PCorps), Paul Ward (CogSci), Erika Hersch-Green (BioSci), Judith Perlinger (Atmos), Ashutosh Tiwari (Chem), Andrew Storer (SFRES), Noel Urban (Envir), Eugene Levin (SOT), Audrey Mayer (SocSci)

Guests (7): Jacqueline Huntoon (Grad Sch), Debra Charlesworth (Grad Sch), Nancy Byers-Sprague (Grad Sch), Kevin Cassell (GSG), Sarah Lucchesi (Lib), Jacque Smith (SFRES), Heather Suokas (Grad Sch)

1) Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm.

2) Review and approval of 02/05/13 meeting minutes.

3) Old Business:
   a. Proposal to Modify (revenue-neutral modification) Research Only Mode (P. Moran): The Council was asked to take the proposal to their departments and bring feedback to the next GFC meeting. P. Moran has proposed this to the Senate. He reports that there was support of the proposal. He also reports the following concern was discussed: making sure this does not get abused by possibly limiting the amount of credits a student can take.
      • (C): In Environmental Energy Policy when students enter research only mode they sometimes switch to self funding. This creates a problem when a student wants to take a summer seminar but cannot afford to. Because of this Environmental Energy Policy supports the proposal.
      • (C): Dean Huntoon received an email suggesting that we allow a student to take up to three credits at the full rate while in research only mode and the research only tuition rate would then apply only to the remaining six credits. It is suspected that the lost revenue resulting from not charging for this additional one credit at full rate would be more than made up for by being stricter in disallowing students to sit in on a course that they really should register for. Dean Huntoon notes this might meet with Board of Control approval because the Board is strict in disallowing tuition.
      • (Q): The economic analysis in the proposal assumes that every one of those 136 PhD students will take a course?
      • (A): No. It is based on the small fraction of students that are currently paying for the courses.
      • (C): If students start entering courses that creates more work for the instructors. Maybe they should have to apply to take a course and explain why the course is critical to them.
      • P. Moran suggests that he add to the proposal that there must be instructor and advisor permission before a student enters a course.
      • (C): One concern is that the proposal spreads the cost across to everyone for the few students using it.
      • (Q): Can we limit the number of classes they can take?
      • (A): It is written now that they can take three credits per semester.
      • (Q): Why not leave research only mode as is but offer a reduced rate to those who want to take a course?
      • P. Moran suggests this: if a student wants to take an elective during research only mode (and gets permission from the advisor and instructor and there is room in the class) they can take that course at the same rate they are paying for research only mode (one third).
b. Proposal for Allowing Multiple Attempts at Oral Exams (Dean Huntoon): The Council was asked to take the proposal to their departments and bring feedback to the next GFC meeting.
   • (Q): How will a conditional pass be handled?
   • (A): Dean Huntoon feels it would be best if it were handled within the program. This is because the program sets the conditions and they can then monitor whether or not the conditions are met.
   • The committee suggested some minor changes and Dean Huntoon agreed to make them and pass the revised version around via email for approval prior to forwarding the document to the University Senate:
   • (D): Motion to approve the proposal passed with the minor changes incorporated.
   • Post meeting update: The changes were emailed to the council and no further changes were suggested so this will be forwarded to the Senate.

c. Using BC/C in a Student’s Primary Field of Study (Senate Proposal 17-13: Graduate Scholastic Standards) Update (N. Byers Sprague): The Senate has approved this proposal.

d. Proposal for Determining When International Students Need ESL Services (Dean Huntoon): Will be discussed at the next GFC meeting.

4) New Business:
   a. Accelerated Master’s Recruiting, Including Research Scholars Model (Dean Huntoon/J. Smith): Will be discussed at the next GFC meeting.
   b. Coursework vs. Research Accelerated Master’s (Dean Huntoon/J. Smith): Will be discussed at the next GFC meeting.
   c. Banner Coding of Master’s Students (Dean Huntoon): Will be discussed at the next GFC meeting.

5) Motion to adjourn at 4:59 pm.