Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Members (16): Andrew Storer (SFRES), Keat Ghee Ong (Biomed), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Zhenlin Wang (CompSci), Simon Carn (Geo), Kari Henquinet (PCorps), Shane Mueller (CogSci), John Durocher (BioSci), Ashutosh Tiwari (Chem), Eugene Levin (SOT), Audrey Mayer (SocSci), Jiguang Sun (Math), Noel Urban (Non-Dept.Env), Tom Merz (Bus), Julie King (ChemEng), Carl Anderson (COE), Patty Sotirin (Rhet)

Guests (5): Debra Charlesworth (Grad Sch), Nancy Byers-Sprague (Grad Sch), Amberlee Haselhuhn (GSG), Joel Tuoriniemi (Bus), Jason Carter (Kines)

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

2) Review and approval of 10/01/13 meeting minutes.

3) Request to change the date of December meeting from 12/3 to 12/10: APPROVED

4) Committee Reports:
   a. Research Only Mode (N. Urban): No report as the committee has not met yet.

5) Old Business:
   a. Master of Science Degree Program in Kinesiology (J. Carter): Members were asked to bring this proposal back to their departments and to be prepared to vote at this meeting.
      • (D): Motion to approve the proposal passed.
   b. Master’s Program in Accountancy Proposal (J. Tuoriniemi/T. Merz): Members were asked to bring this proposal back to their departments and to be prepared to vote at this meeting. There were some minor modifications made to this proposal since it was introduced to the GFC. First, language has been updated to reflect that they are no longer recruiting for a senior faculty member...the search was successful and that position has been filled. Second, the accounting faculty decided to allow one 3000 level course (HU 3120 Technical and Scientific Communication) as an approved elective. Rationale: the AICPA recommends that students prepping for the CPA exam take some type of communication course and HU 3120 was the best fit. Also, a number of MBA courses in the original proposal will no longer be offered, so the proposal has been updated by removing those courses as approved electives. Third, they will be offering two courses in the summer prior to entering the program, ACC 5000 and ACC 5050, that a student can take as an alternative to satisfying the prerequisite requirements for entry into the program. Each course is 3 credits, but none will count toward the 30 credit hour degree requirement.
      • (D): Motion to approve the proposal passed. This has already been forwarded to the Senate and will be introduced at the November 20 meeting.
   c. GFC/Senate Liaison (A. Storer): This year there is not a member who is on both committees. A call for volunteers went out at the beginning of the academic year. As of 11/6/13 the Senate had not recorded a GFC liaison. Andrew Storer volunteered and will serve as the liaison.

6) New Business:
   a. Call for an Ad Hoc Committee: Clarify/communicate accurate info regarding thesis/dissertation submission and review (A. Storer): The most current guidelines have been in place for a year. There has been confusion. The Graduate School tries to make everything as clear as possible. The committee would assist with guidance in terms of presenting the guidelines in the most concise/clear way. It is very important that the information going out to students is accurate and accessible. Call for volunteers: Audrey Mayer and Craig Friedrich volunteered. Andrew will
convene and attend the first meeting. D. Charlesworth and Dean Huntoon will also attend the first meeting.

b. Information Item: Update on 2nd Attempt on Oral Exams (D. Charlesworth): Last spring the GFC approved a policy change to clarify when a second attempt on a required oral exam is allowed. At that time D. Charlesworth was tasked to write that up in policy and procedure format per the University guidelines. The final draft is being reviewed by Dean Huntoon and will then be forwarded to the Senate.

c. Information Item: Allowing students from other departments into your accelerated master's program (K. Ong): Accelerated masters students are undergraduates that continue into the graduate program in the same department/discipline. The biomedical engineering program is going to allow students into their accelerated master’s program from other departments/disciplines. A program can, at their discretion, choose to allow (or not allow) students from other programs into their program. They have changed their internal policy to reflect the change as this particular rule is not stated in Senate Policy 13-11 and therefore the change will not need to be Senate approved.

7) Other: Computing Changes on Campus (C. Friedrich): Mechanical Engineering has had many discussions with IT about the positives and negatives of these changes. Any issues can be presented to IT as a collective voice. Some problems that mechanical engineering is aware of are loss of computer labs, number of seats available to graduate students, color printing fees, connectivity, iPad purchases (can only be done through IT). Are there any issues/problems occurring in departments relating to graduate computing (please feel free to bring this back to your department and provide feedback at the next meeting)?
   a. (C): Social Sciences has made a graduate student office (accessed by keys, not swipe cards) consisting of about four computers and a printer in which the department pays the expenses including software expenses.
   b. (C): Forestry students have some issues with the unavailability of software on University computers.
   c. (C): The School of Technology is having administrative access issues.
   d. (D): Andrew will invite Dan de Beaubien (IT) to the next GFC meeting (12/10/13).

8) Motion to adjourn at 4:41 pm.