

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAired BY: Chuck Wight

TIME: 3:00 PM

DATE: February 27, 2012

PLACE: 303 Sutton

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Barbanell, Ben Bromley, Marjorie Chan, Lee Ellington, Emma Gross, Vladmir Hlady, Terry Kogan, Chris Lippard, Ed Ruddell, Jeff Stratman, Lora Tuesday-Heathfield, Donna White, Chuck Wight, Karen Wilcox

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Tom Cova, Nan Ellin, Eric Hinderaker, Michael Jensen, Mary Lucero, Allyson Mower, Bianca Shreeve

FINAL AGENDA

1. Minutes

Vote: Approved Unanimously
Abstained: None
Comments: None

2. Diveristy Letter for Department Chairs

Donna White from the Graduate School led this discussion. A new letter drafted by Pat Hanna with the approval of the Diversity Committee.

Vote: Approved Unanimously
Abstained: None
Comments: The committee agreed to have this letter published in the Red Book with minor editorial changes.

3. Graduate Council Review for Mechanical Engineering

Lee Ellington from the College of Nursing presented. Mechanical Engineering is one of seven departments from the College of Engineering. The department has been around since the 1900's. The department has responded positively to the past recommendations from the previous review. There has been substantial growth in undergraduates and some growth in graduates. The program is ranked 13th over 200 national programs.

Vote: Approved Unanimously
Abstained: None
Comments: The committee made some changes to the report and approved it as amended. The grant numbers seemed low and the committee would like to make sure there are no discrepancies.

4. Proposal for PhD Emphasis in Astronomy and Astrophysics

Ben Bromley from the Department of Physics presented. There are currently two other emphases and this new addition would help students choose a track.

Vote: Approved Unanimously
Abstained: Ben Bromley
Comments: None

5. Proposal for Center for Communication and Community

Jim Anderson and Robert Avery from the Department of Communication presented. The center has been running informally for the past five years as a test to see if the center would work and function. The center differs from the Bennion Center in that it focuses on providing opportunities for research within the community to faculty and graduate students.

Vote: Denied Unanimously
Abstained: None
Comments: The committee would like to see the proposal clarify that the center is for research, which department can access it, and how the courses are relative to the center.

6. Proposal for Center for Mining Safety and Health Excellence

Mike Nelson from the Department of Mining and Engineering presented. Recent current events regarding mining safety issues have allowed for a substantial amount of monies to be distributed for mining and safety education. The center would provide consulting and education to mines to improve their safety and prevent fines from government entities.

Vote: Approved Unanimously
Abstained: None
Comments: None

7. Proposal for Center for Science and Mathematics Education

Hugo Rossi from the Department of Mathematics presented. The center has had provisional approval for the past few years. They will have dedicated space in the new Sorensen building.

Vote: Approved Unanimously
Abstained: None
Comments: None

8. Proposal for Graduate Certificate in Health Communication

Mark Bergstrom and Heather Canary from the Department of Communication presented. The certificate is about 18 credits and a similar certificate proposal for undergraduates has been presented to the Undergraduate Council.

Vote: Approved Unanimously
Abstained: None
Comments: The committee suggested the list of courses be included in the proposal.