

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRED BY: David Kieda

TIME: 3:00 pm

DATE: March 28, 2016

PLACE: Park Building 300

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Kieda, Charles Hansen, Linda St Clair, Cedric Feschotte, Isabel Dulfano, Richard Paine, Ginny Pepper, Lien Shen, Valeria Molinero, Mary Jane Taylor, Bryan Trump, Audrey Thompson, Kevin Davenport, Mingnan Chen

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna White

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ed Barbanell, Julie Wambaugh, Ryan Smith, Yuanyuan Xie, Laura Kessler, Connor Yakaitis

FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome

David Kieda of the Graduate School welcomed the Graduate Council.

2. Discussion and Vote: New Language for Program Effectiveness Outcomes Assessment in the Graduate Council Program Review "Red Book"

Ann Darling and Mark St. Andre of the Office of Undergraduate Studies presented the rationale behind the language change. All questions by the council were answered by Ann Darling and Mark St. Andre.

Vote: approve the language change; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: Future programs will be informed that the language has been changed and will be expected to comply with the approved terminology. This change will not affect program reviews materially, but may encourage more precise reporting.

3. Proposal: Emphasis in Clinical and Translational Epidemiology

Lauren Kirwan and Angie Fagerlin of Population Health Sciences presented their proposal for a new emphasis in Clinical and Translational Epidemiology. All questions of the Council were answered by Lauren Kirwan and Angie Fagerlin.

Vote: approve the emphasis; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council asked for the organizational need for an emphasis; the presenters responded that while the current epidemiology programs are wide-ranging, there is a specific need for translational epidemiology, not least because current job trends and NIH funding reflect a demand for graduates with that focus.

4. Proposal: Educational Specialist, Ed.S.

Elaine Clark of Educational Psychology presented her proposal for a new special degree in Education. All questions of the Council were answered by Elaine Clark.

Vote: approve the degree; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council expressed concern that an Educational Special degree might provide students with the opportunity to receive two degrees (Educational Specialist and Master of Education) for the work it would take usually to achieve one. The Graduate Council was satisfied that current practices regarding different programs of study for the Masters and Ed.S. degree would suffice to eliminate this issue.

5. Proposal: School of Cultural and Social Transformation

Kathryn Boyd Stockton of Equity and Diversity presented her proposal for a new School, Cultural and Social Transformation, with divisions in Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies. All questions of the Council were answered by Kathryn Stockton.

Vote: approve the school and divisions; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council questioned whether the change might be better served organizationally as a Center or Institute, but resolved that Centers and Institutes should avoid curricula creation and the School as proposed requires the ability to set curricula. A procedural concern was raised that the formation of the School and the divisions should be two separate proposals with attendant R-401 documentation; it was later resolved that the present proposal is sufficient for both organizational changes. The Council expressed enthusiasm for this proposal and its timing.

6. Review: Department of Educational Psychology

Valeria Molinero of Chemistry presented the Review of the Department of Educational Psychology.

Vote: approve with amendments; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council proposed strengthening and specifying the language regarding the department's efforts toward hiring and maintaining diverse faculty.

7. Discussion and Vote: New Language for Foreign Language Department

David Kieda of the Graduate School reviewed the language changes made to the foreign language requirements listed in the Graduate Catalog. All questions by the council were answered by David Kieda.

Vote: approve the language change; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments:

8. Discussion: Bridge Program for Foreign-Language Graduate Students

Donna White of the Graduate School reported on discussions in progress on the possibility of a bridge program for graduate students coming from non-English-speaking backgrounds. The Council was also informed that the Graduate School is looking into alternative English-language testing apparatuses beyond the TOEFL exam. Due to the end of the academic year approaching, the new Associate Dean will lead this initiative with the GAC in the Fall of 2016. The Council were encouraged to participate in these discussions by sending any concerns or suggestions to David Kieda or Donna White.

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

The next Council meeting will be April 25, 2016 at 3:00pm in the Winder Board Room, Park 300.