

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAired BY: David Kieda

TIME: 3:00 pm

DATE: April 25, 2016

PLACE: Student Services Building RM 380

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Kieda, Charles Hansen, Linda St Clair, Cedric Feschotte, Isabel Dulfano, Richard Paine, Ginny Pepper, Valeria Molinero, Mary Jane Taylor, Bryan Trump, Audrey Thompson, Mingnan Chen, YuanYuan Xie, Julie Wambaugh, Ryan Smith

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna White

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ed Barbanell, Yuanyuan Xie, Laura Kessler, Connor Yakaitis

FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome

David Kieda of the Graduate School welcomed the Graduate Council.

2. Proposal: Discontinue MA in Geography

Andrea Brunelle of the Geography department discussed the department's decision to propose a discontinuance of the MA program in Geography. All questions by the council were answered by Dr. Brunelle.

Vote: approve the discontinuance; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments:

3. Proposal: Master of Software Engineering

Sneha Kumar Kasera and Ross Whitaker of Computing presented their proposal for a new Master's degree of Software Engineering. All questions of the Council were answered by Drs. Kasera and Whitaker.

Vote: approve the degree with amendments; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council queried what students the department envisioned being served by this degree; the presenters responded that the students interested in the degree are generally Computer Science majors that want science degrees for entrance into industry, a need distinct from those of the Computer Science MS. The Council requested greater detail in the Expected Learning Outcomes of the degree and greater specificity in describing the admissions requirements set for students entering the program.

4. Proposal: BS/MS in Biology

Denise Dearing of Biology presented her proposal for a BS/MS Degree in Biology. All questions of the Council were answered by Dr. Dearing.

Vote: approve the degree; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council asked whether students have expressed interest in this degree program; the department has conducted an informal survey

that demonstrates student interest. The Council further asked the difference between this degree and the Biology MS; the main difference is that graduate-level research program will begin earlier, during a student's undergraduate period. Because undergraduates in Biology already perform research and have publications, the infrastructure for this formalized degree program is already in place.

5. **Review: Department of Educational Leadership and Policy**
Chuck Hansen of Engineering presented the review of the department of Educational Leadership and Policy.

Vote: approve the report with minor condensation of recommendations;
unanimous
Abstained:
Comments:
6. **Review: College of Law**
Mary Jane Taylor of Social Work presented the review of the College of Law.

Vote: approve with amendments; unanimous
Abstained:
Comments: The Council suggested an extra commendation of an increase in enrollment of female students. Word choice was amended in some recommendation points by the Council.
7. **Review: Department of Linguistics**
Audrey Thompson of Education presented the review of the department of Linguistics.

Vote: approve with amendments; unanimous
Abstained:
Comments: The Council proposed some reworking of the recommendations to streamline the review and present a more cogent plan of improvement to the department. Special emphasis was given to adjusting the proportionality of graduate student workload (especially in the TA category) and their research requirements.
8. **Agenda Item: English Proficiency Tests**
Dave Kieda of the Graduate School proposed that, as part of the effort to facilitate the enrollment of foreign-language-speaking graduate students, the University Credit and Admissions Committee be called upon to pursue the use of the Pearson Test of English (PTE) as an alternative to the IELTS and TOEFL exams.

Vote: approve; unanimous
Abstained:
Comments:
9. **Information Item: CIB Reviews**
Donna White of the Graduate School reported on the current progress of CIB Reviews, with 5 units currently reporting and no outstanding issues to report. Deadline for all CIB reviews is May 31st.
10. **Information Item: Residency Requirement Change**
Donna White of the Graduate School reported on current discussions regarding whether to change the language in the policy regarding student residency status. Currently, the policy requires 2 consecutive 9-hour semesters be studied at the physical University for PhD residency. The Graduate Admissions Committee is considering whether this

requirement puts students in certain fields at a disadvantage. The committee will report on their decision in later Graduate Council meetings.

11. Report: Graduate Writing Committee Progress

Donna White of the Graduate School reported on the progress of the Graduate Writing Committee. The Committee continues in its charge to examine writing resources available to graduate students and will present its report soon to Dean Dave Kieda of the Graduate School and Ruth Watkins, Senior Vice President of Academics.

12. Report: Graduate Tuition Benefits Committee Progress

Dave Kieda of the Graduate School reported on the progress of the Graduate Tuition Benefits committee. There are many limitations and clauses on the finances available for graduate students' tuition relief. One complication is that student support is not validated as F&A, so using funds to pay F&A takes money from elsewhere. Further, a growing number of grants are from industry or otherwise non-federal, all of which may refuse to pay more than 10% of a student's F&A. The committee is continuing to work through these problems and will report on their resolutions going forward.

13. Leaving Members

Dave Kieda of the Graduate School thanked Graduate Council Members completing their tenure with the Council for their service. Leaving members of the Graduate Council are Laura Kessler of Law, Mary Jane Taylor of Social Work, Timothy Garrett of Mines and Earth Sciences, Ginny Pepper of Nursing, and YuanYuan Xie, Graduate Student Representative.

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

The next Council meeting will be announced at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.