

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAired BY: David Kieda

TIME: 3:00 pm

DATE: September 26, 2016

PLACE: Winder Boardroom, 300 Park

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Audrey Thompson, Lien Shen, Julie Wambaugh, Isabel Dulfano, Laura Kessler, Linda St. Clair, Jeffrey Moore, Joanna Bettmann Schaefer, Richard Paine, Chris Stringham

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Kieda, Katharine Ullman, Ed Barbanell

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Ryan Smith, Arul Mishra, Bryan Trump, Chuck Hansen, Cedric Feschotte, Kristin Cloyes, Ming Chen, Valeria Molinero, Kevin Davenport, Derek Caperton

AGENDA

1. Welcome

David Kieda of the Graduate School welcomed the Graduate Council.

2. Proposal: Discontinue the MPhil in Neurobiology & Anatomy

David Kieda of the Graduate School noted that the Graduate Council has the ability to unilaterally approve, manage, and discontinue MPhil degrees without additional approval needed from the Board of Regents. Discussion as to whether MPhil degrees should be listed in the catalog and departmental handbooks was tabled for future meetings.

Vote: approve the discontinuance; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments:

3. Proposal: BS/MS in Biology

David Blair of Biology presented the Biology department's proposal for a BS/MS Degree in Biology. All questions of the Council were answered by Dr. Blair.

Vote: approve the degree; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: Originally the BS/MS proposal was limited to a Molecular Biology track, but it has been generalized to be available to all Biology students.

4. Proposal: BS/MS in Biology

Lauren Kirwan of Health Sciences presented two joint degree programs: PHS/MSTAT and PHS/MPP. All questions of the Council were answered by Ms. Kirwan.

Vote: approve the degree with additional letters of support; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: There were two letters of support missing from the original proposal from the leadership of Population Health Sciences and Family & Preventive Medicine. The Council judged that these letters were necessary before the degree program could be approved.

5. Proposal: Certificate in Leadership for Social Change

Lindsay Gerzinski presented the Certificate in Leadership for Social Change. All questions of the Council were answered by Dr. Gerzinski.

Vote: table the vote until letters from industry are presented; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council felt that there existed enough concern whether the certificate would be directly advantageous to a students' employability that additional research into the desires of the industry was warranted. Additionally, the Council suggested the name of the certificate program may be disconnected from its intended outcomes, and requested the industry letters demonstrate that the certificate name clearly communicates the intended outcomes of the certificate to professionals in the field.

6. Review: Electrical & Computer Engineering Department

Katharine Ullman of the Graduate School presented the review of the Electrical & Computer Engineering department.

Vote: approve with amendments; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council recommended reducing the extra information in the recommendations by eliminating the information that framed the recommendations and allowing readers to refer to the review descriptions to determine the framing of the recommendation. The Council also suggested the reviewers clarify the language surrounding diversity, as the review appeared to reflect both an increase in diversity and a lack of diversity.

7. Review: Physician Assistant Studies

Julie Wambaugh of the College of Health presented the review of Physician Assistant Studies.

Vote: approve with amendments; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: The Council suggested that language surrounding a proposed facility move should be strengthened and specified so that the relevant recommendations will be actionable.

8. Agenda Item: Admissions Committee Exception Rule Program

Katharine Ullman of the Graduate School proposed amendments to the Admissions Committee Exception Program.

Vote: approve; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: Departments are allowed to recycle their exceptions within the same academic year if the original student turns down the admissions offer. Departments should not stockpile exceptions in a given year; all exceptions should be used by the department before the department makes a special request for review by the Admissions Committee.

9. Information Item: Online Programs

David Kieda of the Graduate School reported on accreditation reporting for graduate programs that move online. When courses move online, they do not have to undergo an official change of status, but the Graduate School does notify NWCCU of the change. The date of the Graduate Council notification of the online program is used as the date of administrative approval. Graduate Council members reserve the right to bring any information item to the Council for discussion and debate.

10. Discussion Item: Stand-Alone Graduate Certificate Policy

David Kieda of the Graduate School led a discussion which considered the status of stand-alone certificates (i.e., certificates accessible to non-matriculated students). Additional discussion and policy language regarding stand-alone certificates will be reviewed in future Council meetings.

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

The next Council meeting will be October 31st, 2016 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm in the Winder Boardroom.