

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRED BY: Donna White

TIME: 3:00 pm

DATE: February 29, 2016

PLACE: Park Building 300

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Kessler, Arul Mishra, Linda St. Clair, Mary Jane Taylor, Valeria Molinero, Timothy Garrett, Ginny Pepper, Isabel Dulfano, Lien Shen, Ryan Smith, Julie Wambaugh, Yuanyuan Xie, Kevin Davenport, Connor Yakaitis

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna White, Ed Barbanell

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Charles Hanson, Cedric Feschotte

FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome

Donna White of the Graduate School welcomed the Graduate Council and introduced new members Arul Mishra of the Business School, Kevin Davenport as Graduate Student Representative, and Connor Yakaitis as Undergraduate Student Representative.

2. Proposal: New MS & Graduate Certificate program in Business Analytics

Bradden Blair, Steven Carson, Ruchi Watson, and Mark Parker of the Business School presented their proposal for a MS and Graduate Certificate program in Business Analytics. The questions raised by the Council were each addressed by the proposing team.

Vote: Motion to accept the new programs approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The Council agreed that the proposal had been thoroughly vetted since its original proposal cycle which was reviewed by the Council in January, especially in the proposers' efforts to secure endorsement from the School of Computing, where the proposed programs could overlap in terms of curriculum and resources.

3. Proposal: 6 New Law Graduate Certificates

Lincoln Davies and Tony Anghie of the Business School presented their proposal for six new Law Graduate Certificates: Business Law, Criminal Law, Intellectual Property, International Law, Litigation Dispute Resolution, and Public Interest Law Policy. The questions raised by the Council were each addressed by Lincoln Davies or Tony Anghie.

Vote: Motion to accept the new programs approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The Council discussed concerns that the new programs could overload the administrative staff of the Law School, especially in terms of addressing seminar papers and graduation consulting and processing. The presenters responded that the current curricula in the Law School already requires graduation consulting and the creation of a seminar paper by law students, and the certificates help provide documentation of the students' specialization which is a useful artifact in acquiring a job. There were further concerns that these programs if successful

could lead to administrative costs down the road as the majority of students take advantage of the certification process or press for certification in areas less represented by the Law School's offering. The presenters responded that this concern drove the rationale for the selection of the specific certificates being proposed, as each are either representative of already well-developed programs within the Law School, or generalized enough that increased demand should not overtax the School's resources.

4. Proposal: Center for Research on Migration and Refugee Integration

Caren Frost of the School of Social Work presented her proposal for a Center for Research on Migration and Refugee Integration. The questions raised by the Council were each addressed by Caren Frost.

Vote: Motion for provisional approval of Center pending amendment to proposal, approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The Council concurred that the proposed Center could fulfill research and service opportunities outlined by the proposal. Concerns were raised by the Council that departments and centers/institutes listed as providing resources in the proposal did not always explicitly commit those resources in their support letters.

The Council approved the following provisions to be met before approval of the Center could be realized:

- Presenter should make sure that everyone who is contributing funds, faculty, space, or other resources is 1.) senior enough in the department that they can authorize the commitment they are making, and 2.) makes their support explicit in their letters of support
- Presenter should get a letter of support from the Asia Center director, again with explicit support spelled out
- Clearly organize the letters of support into financial/resource commitments and general interest and support categories.

5. Program Review: Communications

Mary Jane Taylor of the School of Social Work reviewed the Political Science Department.

Vote: Approve with amendments, approved unanimously

Abstained: Connor Yakaitis

Comments: As the department is working with the Hinckley Institute to create an MOU that clears up funding complications contributing to the debt of the Political Science center, the Council advised making note of that collaboration in the body of the Program Review. Further, the Council noted that graduate student stipends were attached to low faculty wages in the department, and advised including stipends in the recommendations about faculty salaries. Because the department will be moving from their building over the next years which will contribute to lowered visibility and reduced student enrollment, debt forgiveness, bridge funding, and being held harmless for a period of time were all advised by the Council as strategies for mitigating the department's financial circumstances. The Council further discussed whether additional staff resources should be recommended to the department; ultimately the Council rejected this as a recommendation item.

6. Information Item: Foreign Language Requirement

Donna White of the Graduate School reported that the official language and structure of the foreign language requirement for graduate-level students is being revised. The revisions are being made in light of the specific needs of departments where certain kinds of translational tests are no longer available or provided by the University. The revised language will come to the Graduate Council in March for a vote of approval.

7. Information Item: Outcomes Assessment

Donna White of the Graduate School reported an ongoing initiative of the newly-formed Office of Assessment to train departments throughout the University to better articulate and assess learning and administrative outcomes. This initiative has resulted in changes to the Outcomes section provided in the Red Book for Graduate Council Reviews. Ann Darling and Mark St. Andre have been invited to the March Graduate Council meeting to comment on these changes, at which time a vote of approval for the language change will be held.

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

The next Council meeting will be March 28, 2016 at 3:00pm in the Winder Board Room, Park 300.