

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

CHAIR BY: Fred Rhodewalt, Acting Dean
TIME: 3:00 pm
DATE: 24 November 2008
PLACE: 300 Park Building

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Marie Breznay, Darrell Davis, Martha Eining, Julie Fritz, Paolo Gondolo, Chris Lippard, Jay Mace, John Martinez, Sally Planalp, Kevin Rathunde, Mary Jane Taylor, Patrick Tresco, Robert Young

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Nickman, Fred Rhodewalt, Graduate School; Ed Barbanell, Undergraduate Council

EXCUSED: Dan Cairo, Nicki Camp, David Chapman, Janell Fluckiger, John McDonnell, Pat Murphy

FINAL AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – 29 September 2008

The Minutes of the 29 September 2008 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

2. Proposal to create a new Center for Ecosystem and Global Change Sciences

James Ehleringer presented a proposal to create a Center for Ecosystem and Global Change Sciences. This request from the Department of Biology is a direct result of a recommendation by a 2008 Graduate School Task Force for the organization of the Department of Biology. The new center would focus on the sciences and provide a nucleus for integrated, multi-faculty grants. An existing center with a similar purpose is to be decommissioned at the request of its director, Professor Bill Johnson, Department of Geology and Geophysics.

After discussion of the proposed new center, the Council decided that the proposal lacked critical information in the following areas: specifics on the administrative model for the center; documentation of financial support from Central Administration; a business model with a student award plan; the funds needed for successful start-up; long-term funding plans; and additional letters of support

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Tabled for later Graduate Council meeting
Vote: 16 yeas, 1 abstention

Action: Inform the Department of Biology of the Graduate Council's decision to table the proposal. A revised proposal that addresses the Council's concerns will be considered at a subsequent Graduate Council meeting.

3. Proposal to create a joint degree Master's of Public Health/Master's of Public Policy (M.P.H./M.P.P.) in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the School of Medicine

Cathleen Zick and James Van Derslice presented proposal to create a joint degree Master's of Public Health/Master's of Public Policy (M.P.H./M.P.P) in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the School of Medicine. The M.P.H./M.P.P. program is designed for students who seek advanced training in the quantitative and qualitative methods of policy analysis as well as thorough preparation in the field of public health management and policy. One of the primary ways in which health issues are dealt with is through public policy. Students who pursue a joint M.P.H./M.P.P degree will acquire the skills needed to conduct effective health policy analysis, understand organizational processes within the health domain, develop policy-based approaches to address issues of public health importance, and translate complex public health policies for a lay audience. Graduates will also be educated in working across public, non-profit and private sectors to produce policy-based approaches to improving and protecting the public's health.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Approve the proposal

Vote: Approved unanimously

Action: Inform the Division of Public Health and the Public Policy Program of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the proposal. The proposal will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

4. Proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering

Don Blowski presented a proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering. This certificate would require 15 credits with numerous options for coursework.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Pass with request for revisions

Vote: Unanimous

Action: Inform the College of Engineering of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the proposal with revisions. Requested

changes asked that the number of elective courses be reduced by 50%. The proposal will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

5. Proposal to change the name of the Department of Physics to the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Science

Dave Kieda presented a proposal to change the name of the Department of Physics to the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Science. As a result of the 1998 Graduate Council Review, the Physics Department established a long-term goal of expanding its successful astrophysics research program into a traditional astronomy program. The proposed name change will more accurately reflect the basic science teaching and research that occurs within the department, and will enhance recruitment of undergraduate and graduate students who may be interested in research in astronomy and astrophysics.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Approve the proposal
Vote: Approved unanimously
Action: Inform the Department of Physics of the Graduate Council's decision to approve the proposal. The proposal will be forwarded to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for transmittal to the Academic Senate.

6. Proposal to create a new doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in Metropolitan Planning, Policy and Design in the College of Architecture and Planning

Chris Nelson presented a proposal to create a new doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in Metropolitan Planning, Policy and Design in the College of Architecture and Planning. Thomas W. Sanchez, Chair, City and Metropolitan Planning, supported the proposal. There would be a strong link between the new degree and the proposed Metropolitan Research Center in the College of Architecture and Planning. The only competing doctoral program in planning is at Arizona State University. The Center and the proposed, new degree are strongly linked.

After discussion, the Council decided that it needed further information on several aspects of the proposal, and evidence for support across campus from other academic units associated with planning.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Tabled
Vote: 15 yeas, 1 abstention.
Action: Inform the College of Architecture and Planning of the Graduate Council's decision to table the proposal.

7. Proposal to create a new Metropolitan Research Center in the College of Architecture and Planning

Chris Nelson presented a proposal to create a new Metropolitan Research Center in the College of Architecture and Planning. The idea is to create a nationally renowned center with a direct link to the proposed doctoral degree in Metropolitan Planning, Policy and Design.

After discussion, the Council decided that the proposal lacked the following information: evidence for broader participation and support from affected disciplinary groups across campus; the funding commitment from central Administration; a blueprint of how the Center would be administered; potential overlap with other academic and administrative units and how it would be resolved.

ACTION TAKEN:

Motion: Tabled

Vote: 15 yeas, 1 abstention

Action: Inform the College of Architecture and Planning of the Graduate Council's decision to table the proposal.