# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAIRED BY: David Kieda TIME: 3:00pm

DATE: April 27, 2015 PLACE: Park 300

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Connie Bullis, Tim Formosa, Tim Garrett, Susan Johnston, Laura Kessler, Robert Mayer, Ginny Pepper, Sean Redmond, Ryan Smith, Linda St. Clair, Vanessa Stevens, Bryan Trump

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Yuanyuan Xie

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Barbanell, David Kieda, Abigail Ririe, Donna White

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Krishnan Anand, Robert Baldwin, Chuck Hansen, Nyce Keiyoro, Valeria Molinero, Mary Jane Taylor, Elham Yazdani

FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dean David Kieda welcomed the Graduate Council to the final meeting of the 2014-15 academic year. He acknowledged the service of six Council members who are rotating off the Council at the end of this academic year: Connie Bullis, Tim Formosa, Susan Johnston, Winston Kyan, Robert Mayer, and Sean Redmond.

**2. Review Follow-Up Report: Languages and Literature**

[Katharina Gerstenberger](https://faculty.utah.edu/u0849566), Chair of the Department of Languages and Literature, and

Mark Bergstrom, Associate Dean of the College of Humanities, presented a follow up

report for the Languages and Literature review.

Comments: Following the 2014 review, a consultant visited the department and facilitated conversations among faculty. The department is interested in rethinking curriculum, particularly gateway courses, and making these courses more attractive to students. One way of accomplishing this is by creating some broader courses involving more faculty, which would increase collaboration and bring in more students. These collaboration ideas will be considered in the hiring of new faculty. Another goal is for the department to move toward a shared identity, which is made more difficult by the nature and structure of the department. Overall, the chair indicated that the visit was very constructive and that faculty were receptive to the ideas discussed.

Faculty salary issues are continuing. SVPAA Watkins offered the chair a verbal promise to help bring equity within this department and between other programs.

The department is nearly finished with new RPT guidelines. The chair would like to create RPT guidelines for career-line faculty as well.

The division discussed in the report is in process, and may result in the loss of 7 tenure-track faculty to a new “Global Humanities” program. The proposal for this program has been circulated in the College of Humanities. However, this proposal is on hold from further review until a new college dean has been selected; there is a sense that they have to wait and see how this will impact the department. The department will certainly be smaller and will have some opportunities to rethink curriculum and hire people capable in multiple areas.

Recruitment of PhD students: With the impending loss of faculty the number of graduate students the department can sustain will most likely be impacted. This is another area of uncertainty at the moment. Currently, nothing is officially decided.

The chair concluded by indicating that the department is well positioned to move forward administratively, academically, and in terms of faculty.

Donna White will transmit this information to Greg Benson at the Commissioner’s Office, particularly with reference to the recruitment of PhD students. The conclusion of the Graduate Council is that Languages and Literature is doing the best they can given their existing support, resources, and history. Further changes must be done in the context of the new dean’s vision and changes to funding structure. Donna White will craft some language on this topic and send it to the Council for review before sending it on to the Commissioner.

**3. Program Review: Department of Mathematics**

Rob Mayer presented the Graduate Council review of the Department of Mathematics.

Vote: Approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: Language in Recommendation 3 will be changed to: “Despite important strides over the past several years with respect to increasing diversity, additional pursuit of faculty diversity would strengthen the Department. Additional efforts with respect to undergraduate and graduate student diversity are warranted as well.”

Recommendation 5 will be split into two recommendations with the language in the second half (now recommendation 6) being changed to: “Whereas all graduate students serving as instructors should be well trained and carefully supervised, this is especially important if the department continues to deem it necessary to have some courses taught by first-semester graduate students.”

The end of Recommendation 7 will be changed to read: “the School of Education where math education has not been a sufficiently high priority.”

**4. CIB (Center, Institute, Bureau): Three Proposals for the Review Process**

Donna White presented three proposals for how CIB reviews could be managed.

Comments: At the suggestion of several Council members, Dean Kieda proposed

that the Council try option 1 as an ad hoc policy for a time and adapt as the need arises. With this process, an advisory committee will be formed of representatives with knowledge of CIB workings to advise the Council in the review process.

**5. Online Course Designation Approval Process**

Cory Stokes, Associate Dean of UOnline, initiated a discussion about the process of approving and reviewing online course designations.

Comments: There was a question as to whether all courses should be connected with the Canvas system (currently about 60% are). Laura Kessler commented that she hesitates to dictate what tool faculty should use to present their material. Outcome measures help us determine if the tool is useful in meeting objectives. Cory Stokes amended the question to be: should every course start in Canvas, then bridge students out to other environments?

Ginny Pepper commented that the Council does not vet classroom courses, so why should they with online courses. Cory responded that online courses have state authorization processes. These courses need to be reviewed for compliance. Also, a goal of the review process would be to increase usability of the tool and set up students to succeed. If Council members have any feedback it can be sent to Cory Stokes ([cory.stokes@utah.edu](mailto:cory.stokes@utah.edu)). He will create a process and bring it back to the Councils for review.

**6. Proposal: Dual Degree: MBA/MEAE**

Dave Harris, MBA Program Director, and Corrinne Lewis and Roger Altizer from the Entertainment Arts and Engineering (EAE) program presented a proposal for a new dual

degree.

Vote: Approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The MBA/MEAE will be a 3-year dual degree with the first year in the Business School, the second year primarily in EAE, and the third year a combination of the two. There is tremendous market demand for a program like this, and it offers many career opportunities for students. Business and creative aims are being united on new platforms.

Ed Barbanell questioned the program starting with the MBA. Using a cohort organization and recruiting students directly into the program makes this model the most feasible. Also, there is a three-semester project class in EAE that they did not want to divide.

Dave Kieda asked for a description of the differential tuition agreement. First-year tuition differential will be in the Business School and the second in EAE. The tuition follows the course outline.

Ed Barbanell then asked how the program would transition students if they start in the EAE program but then realize they want an MBA. These students will split their cohort. It is not ideal. This is where academic advising becomes very important. The program will also offer summer classes, so students can make up some electives. Online options may be available in the future for MBA required classes.

**7. Proposal: Dual Degree: MD/MBA**

Dave Harris, MBA Program Director, and Brad Poss, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education in the School of Medicine, presented a proposal for a new dual degree.

Vote: Approved unanimously

Abstained:

Comments: The MD/MBA is a five-year program in which the first three years will be in the School of Medicine, the fourth will be in the School of Business, and the final year will be mixed. This is a student-driven initiative. The last year allows students to complete their clinical rotations or residency program (hence the proposed course progression). There is no other program like this in the Intermountain West.

These dual degrees will be a minor notification to NWCCU and they can be sent as a bundle.

**8. Proposal: Center for Law and Biomedical Sciences**

Leslie Francis, Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development in the College of Law, and Jacqueline Morrison, Program Manager for the Center for Law and Biomedical Sciences (CLBS), presented a proposal to gain official center status for the CLBS.

Vote: Approved unanimously with amendments

Abstained:

Comments: The CLBS gained provisional approval in 2012. There are 5 core faculty and 9 student fellows. The center collaborates with other centers on campus and around the country.

Governance: There is a weekly meeting of faculty and students, as well as programmatic meetings throughout the year.

Requested clarifications/additions to the proposal:

1. Support letter from Sr. VP Vivian Lee.

2. Clarification on the Stegner Center model (i.e., center leadership appointed by the Dean of the Law School).

3. Explicit statement about all curriculum to be offered through the College of Law and/or Health Sciences departments.

4. Suggested addition of an annual meeting of stakeholders to review achievements and set goals.

5. Commitment by leadership and staff to complete annual review reports to to the Graduate Council.

**9. Graduate Catalog: Residency Requirement**

Dean David Kieda presented a proposed change to the language in the Graduate Catalog regarding residency requirements.

Comments: The proposed change is to aid students who want to achieve a PhD but cannot manage the two consecutive semesters. The students would still register for the same number of total hours. The proposal would be for departments that do not require a lockstep process through the degree. Departments would not be limited from requiring residency. This change in policy would allow for more non-traditional models, which are becoming more common in higher education.

Dean Kieda outlined the philosophical reasoning behind this model when it was first established: Departments wanted students to have enough course study in the discipline, scholarly immersion, professional socialization, and active scholarship.

Ryan Smith asked if the two consecutive semesters were financially beneficial to programs. Donna White replied that since students still have to take the same number of credits, no funding would be lost if we did away with this model.

Susan Johnston noted that this requirement seems like it has seen its day. We don’t actually want residency; we want these philosophical ideas in our doctorate programs. There are other ways of encouraging these ideas.

Dave Kieda said that this would be an ongoing discussion. He will bring a revision of the policy back to the Council for review.

This is not related to the state residency requirement.

Time of Adjournment 5:14pm.

The next Council meeting will be held 31 August 2015 at 3:00pm in the Winder Board Room, Park 300.