

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

CHAired BY: David Kieda

TIME: 3:00pm

DATE: September 28, 2015

PLACE: Park 300

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Lien Shen, Timothy Garrett, Richard Paine, Isabel Dulfano, Linda St. Clair, Laura Kessler, Julie Wambaugh, Valeria Molinero, Mary Jane Taylor, Ginny Pepper, Ryan Smith, Cedric Feschotte, Yuanyuan Xie (graduate student representative)

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Barbanell, Lyndi Duff, David Kieda, Donna White

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Charles Hansen

FINAL AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Dean Kieda welcomed the Graduate Council to the second meeting of the 2015-16 academic year.

2. **Thesis Defense Policy Discussion**

David Kieda from the Graduate School

Supervisory committee chair denies setting a defense, should use 6-400 as rule to appeal fairness to both student and chair. Policy 6-400 describes procedure for student appeal of an academic action. The Graduate Council confirmed that scheduling a thesis defense should be considered an academic action, and so Policy 6-400 can be used to handle disputes regarding allowing a thesis defense to be scheduled.

3. **Admissions Criteria Discussion**

Donna White, Su'Ann Johansen (guest from Graduate Admissions)

Issues raised concerning admissions criteria. A comparison with PAC-12 institutions shows we are either lower (TOEFL minimum score) or equivalent to our peer institutions in our admissions standards. The Graduate Admissions Committee (GAC) reviewed requests from the Academic Senate leadership to discuss allowing exceptions to the minimum TOEFL requirement and to allow departments to grant more exceptions than those allowed currently by the Graduate Admissions Exception Rule. A summary of those discussions was presented by Associate Dean White (GAC Chair). There was substantial discussion and an agreement that the current TOEFL standard of 80 was very low and should not be lowered. The council expressed strong concern about the feasibility of student success if existing standards were lowered.

A question was raised regarding increasing the Graduate Council Admissions committee size. The consensus was not to increase the size or appoint an ex-officio member.

Vote: Endorse current Graduate Admissions system as it is and invite faculty to provide evidence of specific problems regarding admissions standards; unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: Faculty in departments are welcome to speak directly to their Council representatives and/or bring specific examples of problem cases forward to the group for discussion. Due to time constraints and Matt

Lopez and Emily Edmonson not being able to attend, the issue of English Language Proficiency options and three-year bachelor degrees will be discussed at the October meeting.

4. Proposal: School of Dance

Brent Schneider from the Department of Ballet and Sarah Projansky from the College of Fine Arts presented a proposal for a new School of Dance.

Vote: Conditionally approved, unanimous

Abstained:

Comments: Council asked for letters of endorsement from the current chairs.

5. CIB (Center, Institute, Bureau): Introduction for new members and review process proposal

Donna White from the Graduate School

CIBs have not previously been reviewed and we are currently waiting for final approval of review process. CIB's on campus have been researched and are known; policy for new creation is flushed out. Option has been suggested that CIB administrator review annual reports and bring to the council for in-depth review only those with issues or concerns.

Vote: Approve proceeding with the review plan for administrative reviews of CIB being performed by the CIB administrator, with periodic reports to the Graduate Council. Identified problems will be brought forward to the Graduate Council by the Dean of the Graduate School for discussion; unanimous, with amendment

Abstained:

Comments: Amend to include language regarding free-standing CIBs offering degrees that will be reviewed on the 7-year Graduate Council review cycle.

6. Online Course Designation

Ryan Smith from Architecture and Planning

Online course designation was described. The course delivery method is overseen by the UOnline program, but is not currently linked to the curriculum committee or faculty of the degree program/college offering the degree. It is proposed that the council encourage department curriculum review of online course designation, and that faculty oversight of the outcomes assessment results and curricular modifications should be explicitly built into the UOnline initiative.

Vote: No vote taken

Abstained:

Comments: Dave Kieda will meet with Sr. VPAA Ruth Watkins regarding establishing the relevant departmental faculty oversight and review of UOnline courses and degree programs.

7. FYI: Discontinue the Provisionally Approved National Criminal Justice Academy

Time of Adjournment 5:00pm.

The next Council meeting will be 26 October 2015 at 3:00pm in the Winder Board Room, Park 300.