Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 24, 2025, 3:00 pm
3105 Gardner Commons

Council Members Present: Paul Stout, Donna Ziegenfuss, David Symons, José Gutiérrez, Codrina Rada, James Agutter, Jay Jordan, Glen Schmidt, Misty Smith, Julie Valentine, Kuby Balagurunathan, Robert Keiter

Ex Officio Members Present: Darryl Butt, Helene Shugart, Katrina Green, Anthony Jones, Karen Paisley

Excused members: Kent Golic, Janet Lindsley, Steven Valdez (student representative)

Graduate School Staff Present: Paula Spencer, Mary Anne Berzins

Welcome: Darryl Butt, Graduate School Dean
Katrina Green provided members with an overview of program proposal process:
- Curriculum changes of less than 25% change can be fully approved at the department and college level.
- Curriculum changes over 25% must go through the full approval process.
- Expected timeline for approval workflow suggests that proposals should be considered at the Graduate/Undergraduate Council level by October to be approved before fall catalog goes live in April.
- New program proposals have an added step of going through a USHE peer review.

Proposal: Program Significant Changes >25% – Nursing Ph.D., Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Nursing MS
Presenters: Julie Gee, Cynthia Beynon, Emily Winn, and Paula Meek, Nursing

Discussion took place about:
- AACN accreditation standards driving need for changes
- Two-year timeline to test and redesign curriculum
- Consolidated outcomes with credits remaining the same or decreasing slightly
- Alignment of revised outcomes with national standards and industry demand
- Nature of Ph.D. program
  - Serves working professionals
  - Extent of experiential learning
  - Comprehensive assessment
- Due to varying definitions of "competency-based education" (CBE), use of "competency-based" language in proposal could be confusing
  - AACN's definition is different than NWCCU or Department of Education
  - "Competency-based" programs using the NWCCU definition require additional approval, which is not applicable for these programs.
  - Curriculum is course-based
  - Assessments are based on competency attainment

Motion: Jim Agutter - Approve, pending change of language – removing references to "competency-based education"
Second: Donna Ziegenfuss
Vote (Ph.D): Yes-11, No-0, Abstain-1
Vote (MS & DNP): Yes-11, No-0, Abstain-1

Action: Notify proposers that the proposals will be approved, pending removal of references to CBE. Clarify that Graduate Council approval does not guarantee inclusion in the catalog for the next academic year.

Proposal: Program Significant Changes >25% and Name Change – Spatial Data Science MS
Presenters: Simon Brewer and Neng Wan, School of Environment, Society, and Sustainability

Discussion took place about:
- Need for broader data skills
- Name aligns better with outcomes
- Name reflects disciplinary trends
- Various applications using word "spatial"
- Enrollment projections

The following concerns were discussed:
- Should have support from deans in the College of Science, College of Engineering, College of Humanities, and the School of Business
- Lack of comprehensive market analysis
- Need for better assessment plan with courses linked to outcomes
- Assessment plan should include remediation methods for when students do not achieve outcomes.

No vote was called on the proposal
Action: Provide feedback regarding Council concerns. Reconsider proposal at a future meeting.

7-Year Review: Department of History
Presentation by Ad Hoc Committee Chair: Glen Schmidt

Discussion took place about:
- Burden of general education HIST1700 on department resources
- Possible use of more career-line faculty to address teaching demands and incorporating this as an amendment to relevant recommendation
- Department's rationale for using tenure-line faculty to teach lower division courses
- Correction needed in report to clarify that general education courses are mandated by USHE policy R470.

Motion to ratify report (with amendment and correction): Jim Agutter
Second: Jay Jordan
Vote: Yes-12, No-0

7-Year Review: Department of Atmospheric Sciences
Presentation by Ad Hoc Committee Chair: Jay Jordan

Discussion took place about:
- Significant contributions of department to the community
- Administrative shifts in department
- Concerns with shared services
- Distribution of faculty ranks/lines
- Student enrollment management
- Management of Storm Peak facility

Motion to ratify report: Jim Agutter
Second: Codrina Rada
Vote: Yes-11, No-0

Request for Substitution of Accreditation for 7-year Review: Division of Public Health
- No discussion

Motion to approve: Jim Agutter
Second: Julie Valentine
Vote: Yes-11, No-0
Action: Notify Division of Public Health of substitution approval

Request for Substitution of Accreditation for 7-year Review: School of Architecture
- Discussed rationale for including unaccredited bachelor's degree programs.
- The Council required more information establishing the overlap between undergraduate and graduate degree programs to assess the petition to extend accreditation to the undergraduate degree program

Motion to approve with condition: Jim Agutter
Second: Jay Jordan
Vote: Yes-10, No-0, Abstain-1
Action: Notify School of Architecture of substitution approval for accredited programs, with approval extending to unaccredited programs pending receipt of requested additional information.

Request for Substitution of Accreditation for 7-year Review: Eccles School of Business
- There was a brief discussion about reporting mechanisms and review of course fees for School of Business programs.

Motion to approve: Julie Valentine
Second: Misty Smith
Vote: Yes-10, No-0, Abstain-1
Action: Notify Eccles School of Business of substitution approval

Adjourn