

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 21, 2024

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Romney 102

Council in Attendance:

Marc Giullian (Business)
Heidi Koenig (Student Representative)
Scott Powell (Agriculture)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Brennan Reeves (Office of International Programs)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters)
Sweeney Windchief (Education)
Stephanie McCalla (Faculty Senate)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Amy Reines (Sciences)
Rollin Beamish (Arts)
Katey Franklin (Health & Human Development)
Brian Rossmann (Library)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Emily Peters (Graduate School)

Absent

Stephan Warnat (Engineering)
Wade Hill (Nursing)

Meeting started at 10:32 a.m.

February 7, 2024 minutes

- Motion to approve by Powell, Giullian 2nd, 7 pass, 0 abstention, motion passes

Announcements

- Faculty Senate update (McCalla)
 - First reading of 2 graduate policies today: academic standing and eligibility for assistantships
- Update from the Dean
 - Status of 6 policies:

- Fully approved: continuous enrollment and master's thesis (9 cr); added to 24-25 catalog
- First reading at Faculty Senate: academic standing and eligibility for assistantships
- Academic council: positive feedback on academic standing (moved to FS), questions and feedback on appeal policy (returned to UGC for revisions)
- JAGS: did not approve 1 cr extension policy
 - JAGS feedback: concerns with tuition rate based on prior semester, not allowing a student to defend during extension
- Spring numbers: headcount up 7% in last five years (includes graduate non degree, which has declined significantly); master's and doctorates up 18% in last 4 years
- April 12th is 2nd annual GradCat Spring Summit
 - Looking for volunteers to join faculty panel on hidden curriculum in graduate education, morning of April 12th, 1 hour session
 - Send Lauren or Craig email that you're available to serve
 - Tricia Seifert keynote on finding your purpose

Old Business

- Increasing UGC student membership
 - 3 students on UGC would also serve on grad leadership council
 - Governance subcommittee will update language for vote at next meeting
- Reserved limit for accelerated programs
 - So few students would exceed the limit, okay with allowing the flexibility
 - Get feedback from Engineering, then vote at next meeting

New Business

- Appeals policy: feedback from academic council (deans, provost)
 - Supported that the student has the right to appeal decisions resulting in removal from the program
 - Suggested changes:
 - Program ending decision should first go to the department head
 - When an appeal gets to Graduate Dean level, should be an ad hoc committee making the final decision (not just the Dean)
 - Possible committee makeup: FS rep, academic college rep, a graduate student
 - Discussion
 - Who is responsible for forming the committee?
 - Should be stated in the policy, likely the Graduate Dean
 - Suggest having a timeline in the policy for convening the committee
 - Discussion on the circumstances that a student could appeal
 - Suggest having a faculty member from the field on the ad hoc committee. For example, if a counseling student was suspended for behavior that wasn't fit for the field, would want that perspective involved with the decision

- Concern with department head being the first step: often want to side with their faculty
 - Then the student would go to The Graduate School
 - Discussion on whether to have a student representative
 - OIP rep?
 - Policy could state: “others as needed,” “as requested”
 - Set boundaries of what the committee can do, ex: can’t pass the student, but can recommend a new committee
 - Dispute resolution?
 - Legal example – group that reviews merit
 - DH, then grad dean decides if appealable, then goes to ad hoc committee
 - Language to guide how the committee is composed
 - Next steps: Grad Council drafts changes, review and vote on revised policy, continue through regular policy approval process
 - Policy subcommittee to revise the policy
 - Dean Ogilvie will send an initial draft to policy subcommittee
- FFPO-MS Master of Science in Family Financial Planning total credit changes
 - Submitted program revision to change total credits from 36 to 30
 - Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP-IDEA) consortium has decided to change to 30 credits
 - Feedback
 - Allow students to stick to their curriculum or move to new curriculum
 - General support
 - Dean Ogilvie will approve in CiM
- March 6th meeting canceled, next meeting will be March 20th

Updates from subcommittees

Public comment

Adjourned at 11:54 am

Next scheduled meeting –March 20th in Romney Hall 102