Graduate Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 4-5 pm

Minutes

Members (16): Ashutosh Tiwari (Biochem; ChemEng), Feng Zhao (BioMed), Ebenezer Tumban (BioSci), Tom Merz (BusEcon), Rebecca Ong (ChemEng), Veronica Webster (CivilEnv), Kelly Steelman (CogSci), Jean Mayo (CompSci), Mari Buche (DataSci), Michael Roggemann (ElecCompEng), Jennifer Becker (Env), Andrew Storer (SFRES), Aleksey Smirnov (GeoMinEng), Scott Marratto (Humanities) Steve Elmer (KIP), Leonard Bohmann (Engg), Craig Friedrich (MEEM), Judith Perlinger (AtmoSci), Kari Henquinet (PCMI), Yoke Khin Yap (Phys), Eugene Levin (SchTech), Melissa Baird (SocSci)

Guests (7): Pushpa Murthy (GradSch), Nancy Byers-Sprague (GradSch), Debra Charlesworth (GradSch), Mary Stevens (GradSch)

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm by chair, A. Storer.

New Business

1. Nomination and Election of GFC Chair
   a. Judith Perlinger was nominated to serve as Chair and approved on a voice vote.

2. Coursework Master’s Degrees (P. Murthy)
   a. The educational competencies of students who get a Master’s by coursework are not the same as those who have a research project or research thesis associated with their degree. There has been a national discussion if the two degrees should be distinguished. The term “coursework only” is used on our campus but many degrees are not coursework only. The degrees that do not have the element of research will not have those competencies. So, should they have a different name? For example, some universities call the degree Master in Mechanical Engineering as opposed to Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering.
   b. One possibility is to add the distinction on our diploma. For example, currently, in Chemistry’s diploma, there is a place to include Master’s in Chemistry Coursework or Master’s in Chemistry Research.
   c. Craig Friedrich, Andrew Storer, Mike Roggemann and Jean Mayo offered to be on a committee to look into this question and get feedback from the campus community if we want to and how to distinguish between the two degrees.

Old Business

1. Report on co-listing courses between undergraduate (3000-4000) and graduate (5000) levels. (P. Murthy)
   a) The issue was driven by the Higher Learning Commission and some professional organizations regarding co-listing courses at two different levels, 4000 and 5000
and a few 3000 and 5000. Courses must have clear distinction in learning outcomes when the same course is offered at the undergraduate and graduate level. There should be two syllabi for all co-listed courses clearly articulating the difference in learning objectives between 4000 level courses and 5000 level courses. And, there needs to be a justification for currently existing 4000 and 5000 level courses explaining the difference need for them.

b) The Registrar’s and Provost Offices are looking into putting these requirements into place. The new requirements need to go through the Senate for approval.

2. Membership of PhD Graduate committees. (A. Storer, N. Byers-Sprague)
   a) A question was raised about emeritus faculty because item #6 was removed by the GFC at the April meeting: “Former faculty in the student’s home department who have left the University and whose students are finishing up (special ad hoc status)”. This proposed change made by GFC last April brought up an issue indicating that former faculty cannot be the primary advisor. However, per Senate policy 703.1, emeritus faculty are eligible to be recommended by their department/school to supervise Master’s and doctoral degrees and to serve on committees. Clarification is needed, and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

3. Update on Internal Review of Graduate Programs: Graduate Student Learnings Outcomes (GLOs) and Self-Examination of Graduate Program Outcomes (GPOs) (P. Murthy for F. Morrison)
   a) Eight departments have gone through the internal review process and four more will go through it this year. The Graduate School provides the data. The external review will take place every 10 to 12 years. Humanities and Forestry will have an external review this year. A pictogram has been circulated electronically and in print.

Announcement

1. Professional Development Workshops for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows. (P. Murthy)
   a) The Graduate School received funding from NSF to develop professional development activities for Postdocs and graduate students. The Career Services Office offers professional development opportunities for Master’s students. The new (this academic year) workshops are targeted to senior PhD students and postdoctoral fellows.
   b) All the events are on the University Calendar, the Graduate School’s website, blog, and Facebook, and posters have been distributed to all departments.

Motion to adjourn at 5:01 pm.
Graduate Faculty Council Agenda
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   a. Nomination and Election of GFC Chair
   b. Coursework Master’s students

2. Old Business
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   b. Membership of PhD Graduate committees. (A. Storer, N. Byers-Sprague)
   c. Update on Internal Review of Graduate Programs: Graduate Student Learnings Outcomes (GLOs) and Self-Examination of Graduate Program Outcomes (GPOs) (F. Morrison)

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