

GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

3/29/06

Approved: October 11, 2006

Present: David Downing, Claire Rammel, Darlene Schott-Baer, Joseph Shively, Lorenzo Smith, Krzystof Kobus and Kristine Thompson, Tom Blume

Absent: Meir Shillor, Mohinder Parkash, Lisa Hawley, Mildred Merz

Staff: Julie Delaney, Lynette Folken, Eilene Lohmeier

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened by Dave Downing at 2:07 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 22, 2006 minutes have been forwarded to members for approval via email.

MOTION to approve the minutes of March 15, 2006. The motion was SECONDED and PASSED, unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

D. Downing reported that the official signing of the G. Philip Johnson Endowed Fund is scheduled for Friday, April 7th. Philip Johnson, a long-time supporter of graduate education at Oakland University, is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and also the first dean of Graduate Study. He and his wife, Marvel Proton, created this fund to support graduate education.

D. Downing reported that the Thesis and Dissertation Award committee has been finalized and will be meeting on Friday, March 31.

D. Downing reported that the Senate Steering Committee met to discuss the concerns and overall process of program approval. Discussion will continue.

Mr. Downing reported that a compromise was reached regarding the conferral of two Ph.D.'s in Music Education. The committee agreed that, because their degree requirements are complete, the students will be allowed to participate in the May 2006 commencement ceremony and receive their hoods. The actual transcript date of those degrees, however, will be in the spring term in order to secure Board of Trustee approval and allow adequate time for the paperwork to be filed in Lansing before final degree conferral.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Dissertation, Thesis or Final Project Grading

C. Rammel met with Registrar Steve Shablin, Jenny Gilroy and Ron Sommerville regarding grading and the replacement of the “P” (progress) grade to a more non-committal grade “DF” (deferred) grade. After some discussion, it was agreed to replace the “P” (progress) grade with a “DF” (deferred) grade. The “DF” (deferred) grade will not indicate student progress. It was further agreed that should a student fail their defense, the student’s grade would revert to a permanent “F”. This grading structure will only apply to student’s dissertation and thesis research credits. Graduate Council members also recommended that doctoral students submit annual progress reports to be evaluated by the department. These reports would provide a mechanism for external entities requiring proof of student progress. J. Delaney recommended that the non-numeric grades, “S” (Satisfactory) or “U” (Unsatisfactory), be awarded for a thesis or dissertation in lieu of numeric grades. Graduate Council members requested that this recommendation be included in the proposal.

C. Rammel expressed concerns with current catalog language regarding numeric grades and requested member’s approval to remove numeric grades and replace with the “P” grades. Graduate Council supported the change in the catalog language to a “pass/fail” as a temporary step, until a final resolution is reached.

History Review Proposal

In compliance with the Provost’s request to review and make recommendations regarding the number of slash and cross-listed courses in the Department of History’s graduate program, Graduate Council submitted it’s report. Dr. Moudgil has endorsed the direction proposed by Graduate Council regarding slash courses and cross listed courses and will be communicating the Council’s recommendations to the Department of History as proposed.

Ph.D. Minimum Program Requirements Proposal

D. Schott-Baer requested that a subgroup be established to complete the changes to the Ph.D. Minimum Program Requirements proposal before bringing it back to Graduate Council. T. Blume, D. Schott-Baer, D. Downing and C. Rammel will participate. Mr. Downing will email other members requesting additional participation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Slash Courses Policy

D. Downing MOVED to introduce the proposed Slash Courses policy. The MOTION was SECONDED by D. Schott-Baer. Discussion ensued with some recommended changes. Members agreed that the syllabi must reflect graduate and undergraduate level differences with clear expectations and outcomes for each.

Cross-listed Courses Policy

D. Downing MOVED to introduce the proposed Cross-listed Courses policy. The MOTION was SECONDED by K. Kobus.

C. Rammel reported that there is an increased number of complaints from students in cross-listed courses where pre-requisites are required by one department and not another. The students stated that they feel disadvantaged and ill prepared. It was suggested that the catalog course descriptions for cross-listed courses include both required and suggested pre requisites. Council members agreed

The Banner system checks OU credits only. Therefore, if “required” and “suggested” prerequisite information was included in the course descriptions more guidance would be provided to students and faculty. D. Downing suggested that a syllabus be provided by each department listed for the course. The information provided must include the name of a liaison faculty member from the sponsoring department. Discussions between the departments should include a common understanding of what it takes to get into the class, prerequisites and topic issues.

50% Graduate Course Rule

D. Downing MOVED to introduce the proposed 50% Graduate Course Rule policy. The MOTION was SECONDED. A brief discussion followed, to be continued at a later date.

Non-credit Courses

C. Rammel reported that non-credit courses will be moved into Banner for better tracking.

VI. GOOD AND WELFARE

Graduate Council – Spring and Summer Meetings

D. Downing reported that two additional Spring and Summer Graduate Council meetings or working sessions were needed to address emergency or time-sensitive issues. Members were in agreement to schedule one meeting in May and one meeting in June as working sessions. Dates will be scheduled and forwarded to the members via email.

Cindy Hermsen, Director Financial Aid, will be invited to Graduate Council to address financial aid questions.

K. Thompson reported that the School of Health Sciences is awarding a \$1000 Leadership award with two runner-ups. Nominations are being accepted by students or directors.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.