

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2018, GBB 202 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Call to order

Members Present: B. Baker, L. Broberg,, M. Mayer, C. Nelson, M. Murphy, C. Palmer, S. Rinfret, D. Schulberg , R. Smith E. Voronina M. Beavers S. Ross, S. Stan

Members Absent/Excused: S. Whittenburg, N. White

Ex-Officio Present: A. Kinch

- The minutes from 9/26/18 were approved. minutes

Communications

- The committee briefly discussed the distribution of curriculum proposals. Several were moved out of the Professional Schools according to the disciplinary content. [Members were sent the completed summaries and presentation schedule. Three Program Move forms were received after the meeting and assigned to subcommittees.] The committee will not meet October 17 so subcommittees can use that time for the review.

Subcommittee	Level II	L I	ProgMod	Prog Move	E-curr	Date
Humanities	2	2	2		3	10/23
Professional Schools	3	3	2	1(Geog)	7	10/31
Sciences	2		4	1 HHP	18	10/23
Social Science	5	2	1	1(MPA)	15	10/31

Business Items

- The committee discussed possible items to address with the Provost next week. Time will be limited, so issues had to be prioritized. Technically the Provost does not oversee Graduate Education, Vice President Whittenburg does. The Council could ask about the interaction between the two offices. Associate Dean Kinch will send the Provost the summary of programs prepared for President Bodnar’s visit. Chair Broberg sent the message below to the Provost in preparation for the meeting.
- The WRGP tuition exchange proposals from Linguistics and Media Arts were approved.
- The motion submitted by the DIS Oversight Committee was approved. Camie will update the procedures with the degrees new title.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.
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Communication to Provost Harbor

Thank you, Provost Harbor, for your willingness to promptly meet with the Graduate Council, a faculty governance subcommittee of the Faculty Senate charged with review and recommendations to the Senate regarding matters affecting graduate education at the University of Montana.

Graduate education benefits the University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, the nation and the world with the generation of research and creative works that advance knowledge and enrich our lives. That scholarly capacity supports pursuit of grants, fellowships and awards that provide both direct and indirect costs to pay for the facility and staff, monies to pay tuition to UM and to ensure that faculty remain at the forefront of their disciplines.

Specifically, through teaching assistantships graduate education supports the teaching mission of the University of Montana by providing direct instruction of many undergrads, which in turn enhances retention and completion. Many units would be unable to deliver their curriculum without those teaching assistantships.

Through the downturn in undergraduate enrollment, graduate student enrollment has remained stable or grown.

In addition, graduate education has raised the profile of the University of Montana as a scholarly institution. Graduate education contributes significantly to our Carnegie Classification as a "Higher Research Activity" university. In addition, research funding at the University of Montana has been growing in the last several years to historic highs, facilitated by the qualified student provided by graduate education.

For these reasons and others, maintaining strong graduate programs at the University is of paramount importance.

In the face of declining budgets and the proposed reorganization, the Graduate Council has several questions or concerns that merit your response. We offer the most critical here so that we may make the most efficient use of your time and ours in the brief meeting we will have on October 10. We invite you to provide written responses if you wish, but in any event, request your response to the following topics at our meeting:

1. How does graduate education enter into the planning and budgeting process from the Provost's perspective?
 - a. Are impacts on graduate education explicitly included in the budget cuts and will it shape your response?
 - b. Are dollars/student credit hours the only metric for measuring either budget levels or strategic reinvestment?
 - c. Have you considered graduate programs in the proposed changes to the online portion of instruction? If so, how?
2. What do you see as the interactions between your role as Provost and that of the VP of Research with respect to graduate education?

We look forward to your reply to these points and hope to have the chance to explore these and other issues in more detail as we move forward to craft a vital and vibrant UM of the future that includes robust and thriving graduate education.