

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes, 9/12/2018, GBB 202, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Call to Order

Members Present: M. Beivers, L. Broberg,, M. Mayer, C. Nelson, M. Murphy, C. Palmer, S. Rinfret, S. Ross, R. Smith S. Stan, E. Voronina, N. White

Members Absent/Excused: B. Baker, D. Schuldberg

Ex-Officio Present: A. Kinch, S. Whittenburg

- The minutes from 9/5/18 were approved.

Communications

- The preliminary list of curriculum items was provided to the Faculty Senate leadership and has been posted to the Provost's Website under Organizational and Staffing Changes. Chair Broberg briefly named the Graduate Program's on the list. Members from the impacted units commented. The Faculty Senate Chair would like the Council to weigh in if there are any issues.
 - Convert face to face Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management graduate degree into an online degree (Level I)
 - Move the School of Journalism into the College of Visual & Performing Arts, maintaining its status as a school (Level II)
 - Move the Department of Geography to the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation (NA; Senate to review per CBA 7.100)
 - Move the Department of Health & Human Performance (HHP) from the PJW College of Education & Human Sciences to the College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences (NA; Senate to review per CBA 7.100)
 - Create a new department of Public Administration and Policy comprising the Masters of Public Administration, the non-profit minor and non-profit certificate within the Baucus Institute/Alexander Blewett III School of Law (ITP/Level II)
 - Consolidate the departments within the College of Business (Accounting & Finance, Management Information Systems, Management & Marketing) into a Create a new department of Public Programs proposed for elimination.
 - Terminate the following (all are Level I):
 1. MA in Modern Languages & Literatures
 - 2.. MA in Global Youth Development
- The Council would like to invite the Provost to a meeting to enhance communication. Camie will follow-up with an invitation. [The Provost is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th at 12:30 p.m.]

- One of the Deans Merit Awards proposed over the summer was rejected because it did not meet the national requirement. Language on the website will be changed to reflect this. Programs may propose potential scholarships for approval.
- There is confusion regarding TARA. TARA students may only perform teaching or research work, otherwise they are considered employees. Scholarships do not count toward the requirement and some funding sources have specific language. The Graduate School plans to move the process to an online format. Programs with students who have scholarships should consider whether they qualify for the Western Regional Graduate Program. The Graduate School will send clarifying communication that outlines the limits of the BOR policy. It may require departments to provide documentation to be prepared for a state audit.
- Associate Dean Kinch distributed the first application for the Western Regional Graduate Program. The Policy allows Graduate Council to review. He expects one or two more will be submitted. The Council will need to determine how it wants to review the applications.

Business Items

- Professor Mayer agreed to serve as chair of the Humanities Subcommittee.
- Professor Murphy, E. Voronina and White agreed to serve on the Workgroup to draft guidelines/best practices for Accelerated Graduate Degrees. Associate Dean Kinch research programs at other campuses last spring and started a draft document. He will send this to the Workgroup. There will be proposals coming from Philosophy and Journalism this fall.
- The Council briefly discussed concerns with the current student credit hour model of measuring productivity tied to budgets and reorganization plans. It favors teaching larger courses. It looks like faculty teaching larger sections contribute more and there is no credit given for faculty time spent with doctoral students. Graduate courses are smaller. This should be figured in a faculty workload policy. Should the Council communicate the danger of using the FTE / credit hour ratio alone to make decisions?

There will be an opportunity for campus to respond to the staffing and reorganization plans. The final decisions will be made by an Executive Team that will consider research dollars and other qualitative measures. The instructional budgets have already been delivered to the deans. It used the average of student credit hours from 20019-2013 as the target ratio with the current enrollment numbers. It is unlikely units will receive any additional funding considering the reductions do not add up to the amount needed to capture.

The budget allocation model is a different issue. A new model will not be introduced during budget reductions. A new model may weight Graduate Student Credit hours.

Faculty need to be careful about trying to minimize cost for students. If it takes a student 10 years to graduate, their mentoring time may not be reflected in the tuition revenue. There is a point of diminishing returns.

Some programs have already reduced their course offerings or moved graduate courses to UG courses. The pressure to teach higher graduate loads and larger courses will have an impact on quality. Many programs are operating on the edge of offerings. The deans and department heads are faced the reality of our current economic situation. The Council wondered whether it should attempt to capture this data. Simply pulling the data from Banner codes won't work because of the various special topics, internships, externships, independent studies, theses, professional paper, and dissertation courses used to meet requirements. It could be useful to document the change in offerings over a time period, but the data won't show the cause for the constriction. This will have to be provided by the program. Perhaps programs provide this type of analysis in their self-assessments for program review. The Council wants to understand the situation as advising is becoming difficult given the limited course offerings.

Chair Broberg suggested that Professor Nelson ask Dawn Ressel in the Data Office how the graduate student credit hours were figured in the equation. Chair Broberg asked the Provost about how RAs and TAs credit hours were figured but has not had a response.

- The Council will not meet next week. The DIS Oversight Committee will meet at the normal time. The Workgroup should consider meeting as well.

Good and Welfare

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.
