

Graduate Council
April 20, 2009
226 University Hall
Meeting Minutes

Graduate Council Members Present:

Bob Calhoun (for Jason Marion), Teresa Early, Rattan Lal, Anne McCoy, Ruth Peterson, James Phelan, Lea Popielinski (for Ana Azevedo), John Sheridan, Ingrid Werner

Graduate School Staff Present: Patrick Osmer, Ann Salimbene, Elliot Slotnick, Kathleen Wallace, Tim Watson, Susan Reeser (recorder)

Guests: David Andereck, Gene Mumy

A. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the March 9, 2009, Graduate Council meeting were approved as submitted.

B. Announcements –Dean Pat Osmer

- A data compilation for the 2009 First Year Fellowship competition listing the total number of awarded and accepted fellowships for each of the various fellowship types will be presented at the Graduate School's spring quarter meeting on April 22.
- The Graduate School will hold its spring quarter meeting for department chairs, graduate studies committee chairs, and graduate program support staff on Wednesday, April 22, at the Blackwell.
- Preliminary observations for the task forces on life sciences and environmental sciences will be reported soon.
- Rotation of Graduate Council members will need to be made by the end of the quarter. Dean Osmer urged members to send him their intentions to continue service on Council.

C. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions

– Theresa Early, Liaison

- New course proposal (Soc 852) from the Department of Sociology. Professor Andereck and Mumy answered questions about the proposal.
— **The proposal was approved and was forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for final processing.**
- Proposal from the Fisher College of Business to create a Specialized Masters in Business (SMB) new degree program. The proposal was added late to the agenda and will be voted on by e-mail.
— **The proposal was approved by e-mail vote and was forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further review.**

D. Business

1) Change in Ph.D. requirement from 135 credit hours to 120

Council approved a policy change to Section VII.2.1 of the *Graduate School Handbook* to set the minimum number of hours required for the Ph.D. degree at 120 with the stipulation that graduate programs with unique circumstances can petition the Graduate School for exceptions. This policy reflects the change in the number of credit hours

required for full-time status for post-candidacy students to three credit hours. The policy change takes effect immediately.

- **The *Graduate School Handbook* will be updated to reflect the new policy and a notice about the policy will be made at the Graduate School's spring quarter meeting and published in the next Graduate School newsletter.**

2) Doctoral residency requirement

Council approved a revision to Section VII.2.2 in the *Graduate School Handbook* to change the current residency requirements to 9 credit hours (rather than 10) to align it with the same number of graduate credit hours required of funded graduate students.

- **The *Graduate School Handbook* will be updated to reflect the new policy and notice about the policy will be made at the Graduate School's spring quarter meeting and published in the next Graduate School newsletter.**

3) Requiring doctoral programs to set goals for time to degree and Ph.D. degree completion

The April 2008 Doctoral Program Assessment and Plan report recommended the need for all doctoral programs to establish time to degree. Council members agreed that there isn't enough time this quarter for graduate programs to complete these tasks. Graduate programs and college deans will be informed about this initiative and a deadline for end of autumn quarter will be set.

4) Electronic submission of the master's theses

Dean Osmer reported that the Graduate School is scheduled to meet with staff from the University Libraries to review the current electronic document submission procedures for master's theses and to evaluate the possibility of setting up an alternative submission method for MFA students in the creative writing discipline.

- **The Graduate School will prepare a revised final oral defense form that contains a petition to delay dissemination form for review by Council at the next meeting.**

E. Other

A Council of Graduate Student member asked for clarification of the leave policy relative to continuous academic year registration and how leaves of absence can be requested for students on internships or doing research out of the country. Dean Osmer confirmed that academic leaves from continuous enrollment can be requested and that students should work with their programs for exemptions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.