University Board of Graduate Studies Minutes  
Thursday, December 1, 2016, 2-4 p.m.  
Raynor Library Lower Level, Conference Room C


Present, non-voting:  Carrianne Hayslett, Carrie Pruhs, Jenny Staab (note taker), Carl Wainscott, Doug Woods

Excused:  Felissa Lee, Stephen Saunders

Guests:  Sarah Feldner, Tyra Hildebrand, Kerry Kosmoski-Goepfert, Joan Whipp

Call to order:  Dr. Abbott called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Approval of minutes: The November 3, 2016, minutes were approved via email by a majority of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:  Program proposals

- Communication - Sarah Feldner

Proposal #1: That Communication’s (COMM) master's degree plans for both the thesis program and the non-thesis program be commensurate. Currently, the thesis program (Plan A) requires 30 credits and the non-thesis program (Plan B) requires 36. The department is requesting that Plan B be reduced by two courses to equal 30 credits like Plan A.

Dr. Feldner explained that some students choose the thesis track simply because it is a less expensive path to the degree. This is not a desirable reason for students to choose the thesis track, and it will not help them to meet their learning goals. The 30-credit requirement in all situations will help students choose what is most appropriate for them. It will also help with recruitment of students, particularly in the case of the Accelerated Degree Program.

Proposal #2: That changes be made to the requirements in two COMM specializations.
a. Specialization modification of Communication Professions and Society: Change from four specific courses to three specific courses + one 6000-level course.
b. Specialization modification of Digital Communication Strategies: Change from four specific courses to three specific courses + one 6000-level course.

These changes would allow for focus on the specialization but also flexibility to provide for different student needs. They would also allow the program to provide graduate offerings beyond the specialization courses, adding breadth to the curriculum.
• Nursing - Kerry Kosmoski-Goepfert

Proposal for a new master of science in nursing specialization with a dual track curricula for primary care pediatric nurse practitioner and acute care pediatric nurse practitioner.

With all the changes in health care, nurse practitioners now need to be certified in both primary care and acute care. More and more programs are being formed nationally to provide for this dual track need, but there are still not enough, and we do not have one in this area. The dual track program would require a reconfiguration of existing courses. There are no requirements for extra full-time personnel, though some part-time clinical personnel would be hired. Current students could easily transition to the dual track.

• Educational Policy and Leadership - Joan Whipp, Tyra Hildebrand

Proposal to formally create two Teach for America (TFA) specializations—one with an elementary education focus, and one with a secondary education focus.

The TFA course grouping has been a component of both Elementary Education and Secondary Education since 2009, and the department is now asking that the TFA specialization stand alone to help make graduation audits easier and cleaner. Essentially it would be a repackaging of a program that is already in place.

The TFA graduate program is a 2-year, 33-credit program now working with its 8th cohort. About 150 graduates have earned master’s degrees and state teaching licenses. The program is accredited by the Department of Public Instruction and has one of the highest retention rates in the country. It is unique in that the students teach full time and earn their teacher’s license in two years. They are supported by TFA as well as by Marquette in terms of supervision and coaching and also are provided some support by their school employer.

A motion was made by Kim Halula and seconded by Michael O’Hear to approve COMM master’s non-thesis program change from 36 to 30 credits. There being no discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously in favor—no abstentions and none opposed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the changes to the requirements in two COMM specializations.
 a. Specialization modification of Communication Professions and Society: Change from four specific courses to three specific courses + one 6000-level course.
 b. Specialization modification of Digital Communication Strategies: Change from four specific courses to three specific courses + one 6000-level course.

There being no discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously in favor—no abstentions and none opposed.

A motion was made by Kim Halula and seconded by Michael O’Hear to approve the new master of science in nursing specialization with a dual track curricula for primary care and acute care pediatric nurse practitioner. There being no discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously in favor—no abstentions and none opposed.
A motion was made by Michael O’Hear and seconded by Sumana Chattopadhyay to approve the creation of two Teach for America specializations—one with an elementary education focus, and one with a secondary education focus. After a brief discussion during which it was mentioned that this will make things easier administratively, a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously in favor—no abstentions and none opposed.

The approved programs are proposed to start in the 2017 fall term.

REPORTS

Dean of the Graduate School - Doug Woods

- Graduate School strategic plan. The Graduate School Strategic Planning Committee has come up with six goals aligned with the Beyond Boundaries plan and has made objectives and tactics for each of these goals. A survey was sent to graduate students, members of the UBGS, department chairs, directors of graduate studies, and the Graduate School staff. The committee reviewed the data from the survey results to help them decide which objectives and tactics for each goal should be kept and has drawn up a draft of the plan. Dr. Woods requested that the UBGS members review the draft of the plan and let him know before January 1, 2017, if they have any concerns about it. A vote of endorsement will be taken at the next UBGS meeting, January 19, 2017.

- Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (FOLL) request for name change. FOLL is requesting to change its name to the “Department of Language, Literatures, and Cultures.” This request will be discussed and voted upon at the next UBGS meeting.

- Student health insurance. The results of a survey of the graduate students showed that they preferred a straight stipend increase over the option of a lesser stipend increase with coverage for access to the Marquette University Medical Clinic. One business day following the close of the student survey, we received the news that the Federal Government had overturned its decision regarding subsidy for student health insurance. Despite the renewed possibility for offering subsidies, it still seems to makes more sense to proceed with the straight stipend increase because of the unpredictability of health insurance rates. So starting in the 2017 fall term we will go ahead with the “cost of living adjustment” stipend increase, split over the fall and spring semesters. We will not know the amount of this stipend increase until the approval of the budget.

- Graduate School funding reallocation. November 22, 2016, was the due date to apply for reallocation of assistantship lines. The Graduate School has taken back 22 lines from different departments and will probably give back 13. The other lines are reserved for specific purposes. The Graduate School has received requests for about 50 lines, which points to the need for assistantships on campus. Dr. Woods will be meeting with the Graduate School funding reallocation committee tomorrow to receive their recommendations for how the available assistantship lines should be allocated. He will then take those recommendations into account to make his decisions in consultation with the home college deans. The resulting decisions will be sent out at the latest on January 1, 2017. Today is the deadline to apply for the extra pool of about 200 scholarship credits that the Graduate School has created.

During the discussion that followed this report, concern was expressed about the possible adverse effects the funding reallocation would have on some programs, especially in the humanities. Dr.
Woods brought up the point that graduate revenue has been declining for some years and not just in the humanities. Unless we do things to reverse that trend, cuts from the budget office may be unavoidable. The Graduate School is asking the departments to think about this, for there may be some hard decisions to make. The UBGS will eventually need to have some discussions about what we could possibly pare down.

Graduate School Associate Dean – Carrianne Hayslett

- No report.

Graduate School Assistant Dean – Carl Wainscott

- We have been in communication with some prospective students for the Interdisciplinary PhD Program (INPR).

UBGS Chair – Allison Abbott

- No report.

BUSINESS

Proposed language defining credentials needed to chair a graduate student’s project/thesis/dissertation committee. - Drs. Woods and Abbott

This language would be part of the faculty credentialing document that the university is preparing. The proposed changes to the credentialing document are in paragraph “b” below. The added language is in bold italics.

Credentials needed to chair a graduate student’s project/thesis/dissertation committee

a. The individual must have a terminal degree in the discipline for which they will serve as chair of a graduate student’s project/theses/dissertation committees. Terminal degrees in closely related fields will be accepted, but the home departments must determine the degrees that are considered closely related by disciplinary standards. Justification for this decision must accompany the person’s “Faculty Credentialing” document.

b. In addition, the individual must have engaged in active scholarship (e.g., either a book, peer-reviewed article, or disciplinary equivalent) in the last 4 years. Individual Departments can require more (but not less) stringent criteria must establish criteria which must be reviewed/approved by the home College Dean and Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies. Departments can specify different criteria for “active scholarship” needed to supervise dissertations vs. theses/projects. In instances where a project/thesis/dissertation committee is being co-chaired, at least one co-chair must meet this eligibility requirement.

Once the UBGS approves the language, the Academic Senate will discuss it.
A motion was made by Sheila Stover and seconded by Alison Efford to approve the language for defining credentials. A brief discussion followed about how these credentialing requirements would be monitored. Dr. Woods explained that a monitoring process is being formed, and that a list will be generated every year of people who meet the different qualifications. No one, however, who is currently serving in a chair position will be pulled off because of this credentialing policy. A vote was then taken, and the motion passed unanimously in favor—no abstentions and none opposed.

Adjournment: There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

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Scheduled meetings for 2016-2017 Academic Year
Thursdays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., in Raynor Library, Lower Level, Conference Room C, unless otherwise indicated.


Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Staab