

GRADUATE COUNCIL
May 22, 2014
Kerr Hall Room 307, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Present: Bruce Schumm, *Chair*, John Bowin, Pascale Garaud, Deborah Gould, Ken Kletzer, Leta Miller, Tyrus Miller, *ex officio*, Seth Rubin, Wang-Chiew Tan, Micha Rahder (Graduate Rep)Christy Caldwell (Library Rep)

Absent: Juan Poblete, Michelle Glowa (Graduate Rep), Erin Ellison (Graduate Rep)

Consent Agenda

All minutes approved by consent (4/10/14, 4/24/14)

Routine Announcements

Chair

Chair Schumm provided an update on the status of the graduate growth principles document. Chair Schumm will advocate that this document be reviewed by the Senate, and then go to Senate floor.

Chair Schumm announced that he spoke with the GSA President at May 21, 2014 Senate meeting. The GSA President reported that some graduate students reported receiving department offer letters that were not met, and the committee discussed that there is some confusion about this. Dean Miller emphasized that the department letter is a binding letter. The committee briefly discussed the necessity of keeping lines of communication open between GSA/graduate students and GC as well as how much outreach to GSA is appropriate.

Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean Miller announced that the Graduate Teaching Fellowship program application has closed. The Graduate Internship Program application closes June 3, 2014.

Graduate Student Association Representative

Rep Rahder announced that elections for GSA reps are underway. She will not be returning to GC.

The preparation for the grading strike is also happening now.

Rep Rahder briefly discussed the housing survey that was sent to undergraduate and graduate students. The focused seemed to be on undergraduate students, but graduate students were able to advocate for more inclusion of their needs and a small focus group of 12 graduate students was added to the study. Rep Rahder noted that housing will likely be an ongoing issue.

Librarian Representative

The new DMP Tool (Data Management Plan tool) has been released. The tool will help researchers with data management plans.

TIM Program Degree Requirements and Transfer to TM Department

Previously, the Council deliberated on degree requirements, transfer of the TIM program into TM, and the capacity of the program to staff their curricular offerings. GC then drafted correspondence approving the transfer of the TIM Program to the TM Department.

GC reviewed this correspondence and deliberated on the issue of suspension of the Ph.D. and Master's program, as well as criteria for reinstatement of admissions. The Council reviewed the TM Department External Review Committee Report (5/19/14) as part of their deliberation. The Council determined that they would suspend admissions to the graduate programs (Ph.D. and Masters) beginning in 2015-16 and agreed that criteria for reinstatement would at minimum include a robust curriculum plan that is approved by TIM faculty and can be adequately staffed. Council members also deliberated on the issue of the potential need for a letter of commitment from the Dean to accompany the curriculum plan as well as the inclusion of a vision statement, also mentioned in the ERCR. GC will revise the draft letter to include more specific criteria for reinstatement of the graduate programs.

Computational Media Department Proposal

The Council continued their review of the proposal to establish a Computational Media Department, with an accompanying change in administrative home of the programs (M.S. in Playable Media). Member Wang-Chiew Tan was recused from the discussion. The Council reviewed GC's draft correspondence on this matter, where GC recommends that this proposal should be considered taking into account the report of the external review committee that is expected next academic year. The Council further recommends that the Provost's Office should ensure that the review committee responds directly to the issues that will best inform the discussion and that the external review committee members are chosen judiciously, so that faculty on both sides of the issue will feel that the committee has been assembled without a pre-disposition towards one side or another. The Council also raised that there is widespread acknowledgement among the concerned parties that an MOU ensuring curricular staffing is needed, and that this MOU should be generated before the Computational Media Department is formed. The Council approved the draft letter outlining their response on this issue.

Scientific Computing and Applied Mathematics M.S. Program Proposal (SciCAM)

The Council reviewed the proposal to establish a master's degree in Scientific Computing and Applied Mathematics, to be offered by the Applied Math and Statistics (AMS) Department. The program proposes to train students with grounding in engineering, science, or mathematics to prepare for job opportunities in scientific computing or further training at the doctoral level.

GC Member Pascale Garaud updated the Council on the status of additional letters of support from academia and industry that are forthcoming. The Council noted these will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Member Garaud was then recused from the discussion.

GC members articulated their support of the proposal, and also suggested that the proposal should further clarify their discussion about the master's incentive program and should also clarify that by "self-supporting" they mean self-sustaining and not Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program. GC will draft a response that incorporates comments from the Committee on Planning and Budget on this matter, as requested by the administration.

Proposal for a Designated Emphasis (DE) in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES)

GC reviewed a proposal to offer a graduate Designated Emphasis in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies proposed by the program faculty. The Council deliberated on the requirements for the DE set forth in the proposal, as well as the academic policy requirements of establishing a DE. The Council concluded that the designated emphasis was impressive in its approach and interdisciplinarity, and offered potential students a rigorous course of study. Graduate Council will ask the program faculty to comment further on the structure of the requirements.

Music Department Mid-Cycle Review Report

The Council discussed the recommendation for a six-year review cycle for the Music Department from VPAA Lee's office. The Council reviewed the mid-cycle report and the Music Department's faculty response. Member Leta Miller offered comments of clarification and changes since the faculty response was written, including the hire of two new faculty that will make the revision of a course series unnecessary, the impact of budget cuts, and the restoration of the ear-training component of the program. Member Leta Miller was then recused from the discussion.

The Council discussed the issues further and concluded that GC is comfortable with a longer review cycle (eight years vs. six years).

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.