

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
Graduate Council & Graduate Coordinators Minutes
February 17, 2010

Members Present (council): Bauer, Bhattacharyya, Dearman, Gann, Gentry, Hunter, James, Jennings, Kays, Kuralt, Lindeman, McAlpine, Moak, Mirivel, Nolen, Pierce, Seigar, Swingen, Turturro, Wood

Members Present (coordinators): Zacher, Fincher, Tang, Montague, Walker, Moak, Smith, Richardson, Driskill, Smith, Lynch, Jacobson, Berry, Wigand, Hayn, Boden, Kippers, Williams-Smith, Szirony, Wang

Members Absent (council): Cantrell, Robison, Sweeney

Others Present: Pellicane, Lewis, Brooks, Lytle (IELP), Hughes, German, and Chow (ISS)

Meeting started 3:00 p.m.

New Business:

- Dr. Fincher introduced the new higher education program. He left flyers explaining the requirements. Dr. Kuralt reminded everyone that curriculum change forms are due to the Provost office by March 15, 2010, if they are to be included in the Fall Catalog.
- Dr. Lewis gave a recap transcript articulation. She introduced Alan Lytle who was representing Dr. Jerry Stevenson. Alan introduced the staff of the international office: Allyson Hughes, Patti German, and Wong Chow. Allyson gave a brief description of their office's duties; she takes care of immigration and health insurance. Patti handles admissions for undergraduate and graduate international students and Wong is an international student advisor. Dr. Lewis previously provided Allyson a list of questions that Graduate Council members raised at their last meeting.
- Questions:
 - What defines an international student? Allyson replied any student on a visa. Green card students are considered domestic.
 - Do transcripts from English speaking countries need to be articulated? Yes. Articulation does more than convert classes to the U.S. system; it covers the paperwork for the institution and can determine if the college is accredited, what classes can be transferred, and if a degree is credible. Alan stated that the articulation is good for two years. He said that World Education Services offers three levels of articulation. The cost to the student for the "middle" level is \$100 and takes about two months.
 - Who decides the minimum TOEFL score? The international office does not; that is an issue for the Graduate Council. In the catalogs it states that for undergraduate and graduate students the score is 71 for the internet-based test (IBT) and 525 for the paper-based test (PBT). PhD students must earn a 79 on the IBT and 550 on the PBT.
 - What do we do if a student passes the TOEFL and still has issues with the English language? Alan replied that ESL classes are designed for undergraduate, not graduate, students. They are non-credit classes. Alan also mentioned that he also teaches writing workshops for students in the applied science and bioinformatics graduate programs who do pass a basic writing proficiency test offered by EIT. Dr. Jennings stated he and Dr. Bhattacharyya would probably benefit more from oral interviews because most of their students are international. Alan replied that they could request an oral language test. Dr. Pellicane wanted to know why the ESL classes are not geared toward graduate students; Alan replied that they need more money, staff, and facilities and then possibly they could accommodate graduate students.

Coordinators were adjourned at 3:43p.m

- Dr. Lewis asked that the Graduate Council approve a policy that all international transcripts need to be articulated through WES or an accredited articulation transcript service. This action – while supported – was tabled until Dr. Lewis provides specific language that will be considered for placement in the catalog.
- At Dr. Jennings' request, Dr. Pellicane described the graduate students' rights and responsibilities clause that he would like added to the catalog. Dr. Jennings asked for clarification on what policy matters the Graduate Council needs to approve. Dr. Lewis responded that the Graduate Council needed to approve anything the coordinators and graduate school staff have to enforce. Dr. Jennings noted that if five faculty

members object to a new policy then that matter needs to be considered by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Hunter suggested that we delay catalog revisions until the next meeting to allow a review the language of a number of policies proposed by Dr. Pellicane. Dr. Jennings suggested that Dr. Pellicane send out the policies to Graduate Council, and that they then provide feedback to him, Dr. Pellicane, and Dr. Lewis via email.

- Minutes from February 3, 2010 approved.

Report of Curriculum Committee

College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences

(09-6195) New Course	HIST 4350/5350	The United States and the Middle East (approved)
(09-6198) Drop GRE score requirements for Fall 2010		MA in Liberal Studies (tabled)

The Graduate Council discussed the merits of standardized tests for admission purposes. The MALS proposal will be sent back to the Curriculum Committee for a vote on recommendation to the Council.

Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology

(09-1220) New Course	CPSC 5360	Computer Security
(09-1223) Multiple changes	CPSC 5375	Fundamentals of Database Management Systems
(09-6188) Multiple changes	CPSC 5366	Interactive Computer Graphics and Animation
(09-6189) Multiple changes	CPSC 5373	Fundamentals of Software Engineering
(09-6191) Multiple changes	CPSC 5381	Computer Architecture and Design
(09-6192) Multiple changes	CPSC 5382	Compiler Construction and Theo
(09-6193) Multiple changes	CPSC 5384	Computer Networks
(09-6194) New Course	CPSC 5338	Smart Software Systems

All courses were approved.

Report of Personnel Committee

Affiliate

Brett A. Powell, EdD	Vice President for Administration and Finance/OBU	COE	<i>approved</i>
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Susanne M. Wagner, PhD	Assistant Professor of German Studies	AHSS	<i>approved</i>
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Meeting Adjourned at 4:30p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sheena Brooks