

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK
Graduate Council Minutes
October 21, 2009

Members Present: Hunter, Kuralt, Dearman, Swingen, Cantrell, Nolen, Wood, Gentry, Mirivel, Turturro, Sweeney, Jennings, Pierce, Kays

Members Absent: McAlpine, Robison, Seigar, Bhattacharyya, James, Gann

Others Present: Lewis, Shelton; Dr. Belcher

Approval of October 7, 2009 minutes

Approved

Old Business:

- Dr. David Belcher discussed the Program Viability Process, new standards, and the Graduate Council's response and concerns. Although failure to meet the original standards resulted in virtually no consequences, failure to meet the new, higher standards will result in funding cuts to those programs. The ADHE passed "6 – 4 – 2" standards at its meeting in October, 2008, which refers to the program threshold of graduating 6 baccalaureate, 4 master, and 2 doctoral students per year to maintain funding of the program. Under the new guidelines, cognate and embedded degree programs may be combined to count toward the new standard. For example graduates of a Certificate program in Taxation can be combined with the Master of Science in Taxation program. Many UALR programs initially believed to be in jeopardy have been "taken off the table."

The Graduate Council's response letter to the Provost was met with agreement. He intends to continue funding for existing programs, but urges the Graduate Council to look very closely at new program proposals to be sure they will meet fiscal requirements supporting the new viability standards. Largely playing a "devil's advocate" role, Dr. Belcher proposed to the Dean's Council a moratorium on new programs, which was not warmly received by that body. If the Graduate Council wants to look more closely at new program proposals, paying particular attention to resource capacities, the Provost will fully support that scrutiny.

Dr. Belcher pointed out that he expects all requests for resources to be reasonable, and he wants to see hard work and smart choices going into the requests for allocations. He expects that, at the college level, resources can be moved from certain areas if they can be better used in other areas that have greater needs.

- Amanda Nolen reported that she had a productive meeting with the Provost, who indicated that both he and the Chancellor welcome faculty feedback on the new IRB Policy & Procedure manual after it goes on the website for final review.
- Steve Jennings proposed that unapproved minutes from Graduate Council meetings be put up on the website by the following Friday to give council members ample time to consider the minutes for approval, and to make them linkable in an email message that the Provost will be sending out each Friday. Bullet points of action items approved by the Council will be distributed via the Provost's faculty listserv, as well (action items include curriculum items and graduate faculty nominations which were approved by the council.) Likewise, the agenda for an upcoming Graduate Council meeting should be posted and emailed via the Provost's listserv by the following Friday, which is the Friday prior to the meeting.
- Angela Hunter reported that Dean Pellicane submitted to the subcommittee a draft proposal including new statuses and a review process for graduate faculty status. The committee provided feedback and will entertain ongoing discussions about graduate faculty status.

- Steve Jennings reminded council members of the Monday, November 16, NCATE site visit and that representatives would like to meet with members of Graduate Council at 3:00 pm. He also distributed a handout entitled, **Governance Councils (STEPPS, APC, AREC, UG Council, Grad council, PAAG, DC, CLG)** which came from Dean Sewall as possible questions that the NCATE reviewers might be asking Graduate council members.

New Business:

Report of Curriculum Sub-committee

All approved

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

09-6089 HIST 4397/5397 *Teaching Applications*

Course: dual listing

College of Business

09-6109 All COB Graduate Programs

Program: change

College of Education

09-6101 Intervention Specialist

Program: new

09-6108 ECED 7301 *Curriculum: History, Issues, and Models*

Course: deletion

TCED 7301 *Curriculum: History, Issues, and Models*

Course: new

College of Science and Mathematics

09-6111 HSCI 7325 *Sports and Exercise Nutrition*

Course: new

Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology

0910-6000 SYEN 7357 *Advanced Antennas for Wireless Systems*

Course: new

09-6103 ASCI 7306 *Real-time Embedded Systems*

Course: new

09-1179 Integrated Computed Doctoral Program

Program: new

Report of Personnel Sub-committee

All approved

Full

Brianne Orr, PhD

Assistant Professor of Spanish

AHSS

Shaun A. Thomas, PhD

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

CPS

Lirong Zeng, PhD

Assistant Professor of Biology

CSAM

Affiliate

Mary Ryan, MPH

UAMS Library Director (and tenured Professor)

AHSS

Dean's Report:

Dean Pellicane is attending the Society of Research Administrators International meeting in Seattle.

Associate Dean's Report:

Dean Lewis reported that, where possible, processes in the Graduate School will be brought in line with similar undergraduate processes. For example, there has not been a real process for ensuring that curriculum items actually went from the Graduate Council into the Graduate Catalog. Effective immediately, a representative from the Office of Records and Registration will attend Curriculum subcommittee meetings. Because of scheduling conflicts, meeting dates will change to a day yet to be finalized.

The next Graduate Coordinators' meeting will be held at 3:00 Tuesday, October 26, in the DCS Ledbetter Conference Room C. The topic will be Research Compliance issues, and there will be a panel discussion with the Compliance Officer (Rhiannon Morgan), the chair of the Institutional Review Board (Elisabeth Sherwin), and the Research Integrity Officer (C. Fred Williams).

The Graduate School is going through some reorganization of duties, thus the process of getting items onto the website will be undertaken by Shannon Clowney.

Adjourned at 4:20