

UA Little Rock Graduate Council
March 27, 2019 3:00 p.m.
Ottenheimer Library, Room 509

Minutes

Members Present:

Annie Childers, Brian Berry, Gail Hughes, Jim Grover, Yupo Chan, Karen Kuralt, Nicole Godfrey, Bryce Jackson-Litteken, Judith Hayn, Donna Rose, Brian Delavan, Trisha Rhodes, Sung-Kwan Kim, Gary Geissler, Jerry Stevenson

Members Absent:

Qingfang He, Nawab Ali, Adelene McClenny, Mengjun Xie, Laura Ruhl, Roger Dorsey

Others Present:

Dana Steele, Ross Bradley, Bruce Smith

Meeting called to order at **3:01 p.m.**

Old Business

- Approved minutes from March 13, 2019 meeting.

New Business

- **Report of the Curriculum Committee**
 - **College of Social Sciences and Communication**

19-1027	ACOM	4326/5326	New Course TABLED
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- **College Report of the Policy and Personnel Committee**

- **Graduate Faculty Nominees for Affiliate Status**

■ Stephanie Byrum	Doctorate	UAMS	EIT
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APPROVED

- **Graduate Faculty Nominees for Full Status**

■ Daryl Tate	Doctorate	UA Little Rock	CEHP
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APPROVED

Dean's Report

N/A

Open Forum

- **Campus Priorities Discussion**

Spoke about campus priorities now being up to 3.

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3

*When it comes to emailing records, 3rd priority still doesn't apply. Priority 3 is only being used in concentrations. For instance, in dual concentrations. Attached to program code. Shows that the student graduates with the same degree two time and it is reported to the state twice. This causes a red flag. The state doesn't look at concentrations, they only look at the degree(s) awarded. In circumstances like this, it appears that the degree is awarded twice even though it hasn't been.

Spoke about how two concentrations should be treated.

Questions surfaced by the committee:

- Should double concentrations be allowed?
- Should people be allowed to get the same degree?
- What to do for double majors in the same concentration?
- How should double concentrations be reported?

Referred to the duplicate policy. Concentrations aren't that different. If concentrations were different, they'd be different degrees. Hours are typically the same except for 1 or 2 classes. There really isn't a way to tell who graduates with what because everyone is awarded the same degree.

Talking to records for a solution. Committee agreed that technology should not affect the education that someone wants.

● 509.11 Graduation Requirements Discussion

Revisited language in this policy.

- Added the word **consecutive** in the first paragraph.
- In the third paragraph, members came to the consensus that a sentence needed to be added about how an extension can be petitioned once.
- In the fourth paragraph the language and/or added to the following sentence:
This may mean that they will be required to complete additional **and/or** different courses than those required when they were first admitted.
- At the end of the fourth paragraph, a sentence something along the lines of "if a student exceeds their time window or is about to exceed their degree timeout window."
- In the fifth paragraph, remove the word **new**. Committee agreed that adjectives should be left out in the policy language.
 - Questioned if this "new" could be original or new credit.
 - Thought: Part-time Grad student is 6 hours. Programs are different. Classes are changing. No upper limit specified. 6 hours counted towards

a student's degree. Doesn't matter if these courses are new or older classes (that have changed) previously/originally taken.

- **Proposal of a Readmitting Capping Rule**

Discussion about students not being able to be readmitted after lapsing out of the 7 and 10-year window for their degree. Agreed that students should be granted 1 more attempt at finishing their degree.

Agreed this concern would be added to the language of the 509.11 Graduation Requirements Document. This information will be added to the end of the 3rd paragraph in 509.11 Graduation Requirements.

- **509.12 Leave of Absence Discussion**

Talked about "Points of Discussion" located on the bottom of the 509.12 Leave of Absence Document. Currently, there are advantages of taking a leave of absence in the spring, some students may take more than a year of leave, and some students don't know when they will need a leave of absence, but current policy asks for students to ask for leave the semester before they need it.

All members agreed that the 509.12 Leave of Absence policy is a request that keeps faculty in the loop about what is going on with their students. In the future, the committee hopes that email alerts will be sent to students as returning reminders after their leave is over.

509.12 Leave of Absence doesn't drop a student from their classes, but it stops the clock for them. Concerns about students stopping the clock for a long time. Agreed that there needs to be a policy that stops a student from taking too long and their degree timing out. Agreed that a time limit needs to be enforced because a leave of absence can become indefinite. There needs to be a cap because a leave doesn't count towards the 7 or 10-year limit. The committee members fear that this could be taken advantage of and that some students could stretch out time to finish their degree.

Question: Can a leave of absence be extended for 2 years?

After a debate, the committee agreed that this can occur, but the student may have to re-admit and go into a new catalog.

Concerns were expressed about military service (veteran laws). All committee members agreed that they want the policy to be military friendly. Discussion about the importance of education in the military. Education → Means promotion, Knowledge → Moving up in ranks.

Mentioning about there not being an official retroactive withdrawal for Grad students. Example: You are in a coma. Parents do your paperwork. However, you can't be dropped.

Concerns were expressed about the consistency of language in the 509.12 policy. States one academic semester. A 3-semester thing. After deliberating, came to the conclusion that there

needs to be a reasonable gesture for a leave of absence. The goal is for the student to come back the next term after their leave of absence is completed.

Spring Term → Fall Term

Fall Term → Spring Term

*Excluding summer.

- **GSA Discussion**

Spoke about the challenges that Grad students are facing. Examples: Stipends. Getting assistantship job requests at insane hours with insane turnaround time. Getting permissions for not attending class when there is a legit reason for not doing so.

Discussed wanting to focus on how to improve the Grad student experience. Agreed that Grad School should be challenging, but it shouldn't be traumatic. Should there be something written down on paper that protects students? A Grad Student Bill of Rights?

Information that should be given to Grad students, such as how to file a Channel of Complain, how to file a grievance. This information is in the handbook, but are students aware of this? Are students aware of how to utilize the Dean of Office? There is an anonymous complaint form available to students.

Agreed that things/policies need to be revisited. Suggested that the GSA have Richard Harper speak to students at a meeting.

- **Research and Creative Works Expo**

Discussed that the Research and Creative Works Expo is happening on April 18, 2019. The event is still needed judges for a poster contest. Looking for 4 to 5 individuals to participate.

- **Graduate Student Honor Society**

Announced that the UA Little Rock Graduate Student Honor Society is being restarted. AEL Alpha Epsilon Lambda.

Currently, eligible members are being generated. An email will go out to these members soon. These individuals are being picked based on the top 35% GPA of currently registered students at UA Little Rock.

Other criteria to be considered:

- Students must have completed 12 hours.
- Current GPA is at least a 3.75.

Selected members of the honor society will be asked to provide a CV and personal statement. There will be a committee to review submissions and to finalize the approval of members.

Meeting adjourned **4:00 p.m.**