

UA Little Rock Graduate Council
March 9, 2022 | 3:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting

Minutes

Members Present: Laura Ruhl, Robert Lytle, Lynne Larsen, Nancy Hamilton, Mariya Khodakovskaya, Roger Dorsey, Daryl Tate, Sung-Kwan Kim, Catherine Crisp, Jerry Stevenson, Londie Martin, Jennifer Holtz, Donna Rose, John Nichols, Kamran Iqbal

Members Absent: Rebekah White, David Manry, Chelsea Bradley

Others Present: Nicole Godfrey, Dana Steele, Brian Berry

START: 3:02 P.M.

Old Business:

Approval of minutes from Feb. 23, 2022 meeting.

New Business:

Report of the Curriculum Committee - Approved

22-1007	School of Education	Course Title Change	READ 7387
22-1006	School of Education	Program Title Change	Dyslexia Therapist GC

Report of the Policy and Personnel Committee

Nominee(s) for Graduate Faculty Affiliate Status:

Reed Claiborne	Master's	UALR Disability Resource Center	DCSTEM
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Other business:

Graduate Honors Discussion and Statement to Faculty Senate

- None of the researched institutions offered graduation honors.
- Most had honors societies along with their programs.
- If students/advisors want the honors to reflect on the student's transcript, they need to let the records office know.

- The Records office doesn't note honors societies at this moment.
- Thoughts about possibly implementing honors for specific programs.
- Surrounding schools do not have honors programs, which leads many to think of having an honors program as unnecessary.

International Transcript Policy Revision

- This policy was approved last semester, but Dr. Ruhl held off on sending the copy to the Faculty Senate executive committee because there were some issues on finding the original text.
- The policy will be voted on at this Friday's Faculty Senate meeting.

Dean's Report

Dr. Berry introduced ideas about future revisions to the clemency policy.

- The issue with this is that when the student re-applies to the school, the approval goes to the program coordinator. If clemency is approved, the student may expect to be admitted back into their original program, which the student may or may not be doing.
 - The student could be granted clemency to enter another program, not necessarily the student's original program.
- Questions to think about:
 - Does the program coordinator need to be involved in the clemency decision or do they just need to be involved in the readmission to the program decision.
- Don't want students to have the idea that if they are granted clemency, that they can pick back up where they left off in the program - sometimes the program isn't the best fit.
- Referring this issue to the Policy and Personnel committee to figure out the best policy.

During the next Grad Council meeting, Dr. Berry will discuss student enrollment trend lines across all of the colleges to identify areas of growth.

Change in personnel at SLATE -trying to get the application running.

- We will have to work out of two systems for a while.

Student Research and Creative Works Expo - April 8th from 2:00pm-4:00pm.

- Will be an outdoor event this year.
- It will be synced up with a recruiting event for undergraduate students.

Open Forum

Discussion- Graduate Individualized instruction and IU/Graduate Student (brought to Grad Council by the Applied Science Council)

- The Applied Science Council is concerned because many science faculty are research supervisors for more than 3 graduate students, but the amount of workload credit for research supervision is capped at 3 IUs.

- Some Applied Science faculty are declining to work with new grad students so they can get their numbers down to 3, the maximum they are credited for.
- This practice will hurt the growth of the Applied Science program and decrease the number of GAs available to assist with undergrad lecture courses.
- It's important that faculty workload is reported accurately for compensation purposes, particularly if faculty are overloaded.
- The DCSTEM dean believes that the university's workload policy capping individualized instruction at 3 IUs must be changed. The Applied Science Council wants to try to enact this change and is asking for Grad Council's support.
- Counseling is experiencing similar problems with individualized instruction workload and the faculty/student ratios required for accreditation.
- Dr. Berry noted that the Faculty Senate does not have the ability to change the workload policy; they didn't originate that policy. They can, however, recommend that the policy be changed – so that's how the motion should be worded.
- In addition, Dr. Berry noted that the current workload policy allows a faculty member supervising 3 grad student researchers to teach just 2 courses per semester, which is a very reasonable workload for an R2 school. He is skeptical that faculty workload could be reduced down to just 1 course per semester.
- Applied Science is not worried about course assignments as much as they are about the trend of faculty declining to work with new grad students because they are not appropriately compensated for working with more than 3.
- The Council approved a motion recommending that the Faculty Senate look into a more fair compensation arrangement for graduate faculty members.

Dr. Crisp raised the issue of how lack of resources for programs and faculty is leading her program (Social Work) to be forced to turn away qualified applicants. Dr. Berry agreed this is an important area for additional research and discussion.

Adjourn

END: 4:12