MINUTES
The Graduate Council
April 20, 2016
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mariah Acton, Susan Anderson (ex officio), Hank Childs, Krsta Chronister, Erik Girvan (ex officio), Stephen Frost, Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, Tory Herman, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Kaori Idemaru, Laura Jacek (ex officio), Chuck Kalnbach (ex officio), Alison Kwok, John Russial, and Ben Yang

Members Absent: Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Shankha Chakraborty, Alexandre Dossin, Scott Pratt (ex officio), Thomas Ptak, David Riley and Mark Watson (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm. The March 16, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

New Business

Communication Disorders & Sciences (CDS) Proposal for 4 + 1 Masters

Academic Affairs Manager Geldreich stated that the CDS Proposal for a 4+1 Masters does not change any of the current degree requirements for the Bachelor or Masters programs in CDS.

Assistant Professor Yang noted that the CDS Proposal states that students will formally apply to the UO Graduate School and CDS master’s program winter term of their junior year, and thus will have been counseled to take the GRE prior to this term. Assistant Professor Yang asked what would happen if the student does not pass the GRE. Associate Dean Hodges replied that while the GRE exam is required, there is no cut-off score.

Professor Kwok asked what would happen if the student on the 4+1 track in CDS is not admitted to the graduate program. Associate Dean Hodges replied that they would still be able to receive their undergraduate degree.

Associate Professor Idemaru asked if students who later decide they wanted to get a Ph.D. are able to apply the shared credits for the undergraduate degree and the master’s degree. Academic Affairs Manager Geldreich pointed out that there are no shared credits in this proposal. The program plan involves no changes to the undergraduate or graduate Master’s degree requirements already in place, so the courses taken could be applied to a Ph.D. degree.

Professor McKay Sohliberg and Lecturer Karen McLaughlin from Communication Disorders and Sciences joined the Graduate Council Meeting.

Professor Sohliberg explained that the rationale for the 4+1 program offering is to recruit and retrain top CDS undergraduates in the UO CDS Master’s program.

Associate Professor Childs asked how large a cohort was expected and asked if freshmen coming into the program would be at the stage where they know they want to get a Master’s degree. Lecturer McLaughlin responded that CDS initially expects four to five students in the 4+1 program. She stated that CDS has not discussed a mechanism for the student who identifies later in the program, but it is something CDS could consider.

Associate Professor Frost asked if CDS students in the 4+1 program who apply to the Master’s program will be considered alongside other applicants to the Master’s program, or if they are in a separate category. Professor Sohliberg stated that the 4+1 students would be known to the CDS program, but that they will be considered for admission along with all other applicants.
Associate Dean Hodges noted that in the summer of the freshman and sophomore years 4+1 students are taking a lot of classes. She asked if some of the classes could be moved to the junior year in the program. Lecturer McLaughlin said this is permissible, as would be taking 18 credits in one term.

After the guests left the Graduate Council meeting, Associate Professor Childs moved to approve the proposal for a 4+1 Option within the Communication Disorders and Sciences degree programs. Associate Professor Russell seconded the motion. The Graduate Council unanimously voted to approve the proposal.

**Discussion of Criteria for Online and Hybrid Graduate Courses**

Associate Dean Hodges told Council members that they are considering a preliminary draft of the policy on graduate online and hybrid courses and will not be voting on the policy today. She asked for input on the draft distributed to Council members.

Assistant Professor Yang stated that it will be difficult to verify a student's identity for exams and other high-stakes graded course components. Assistant Dean Jacek reported that when she took an on-line course, she was required to go to a testing center to take exams, and her identification was verified.

Associate Professor Chronister asked what faculty engagement would look like. She noted that she has seen this abused in some on-line courses. Vice Provost Anderson noted that the impetus for this proposal in Undergraduate Council was to make sure there was a lot of faculty engagement in on-line courses offered.

Assistant Professor Yang asked if there was a checklist to use to determine if courses would be eligible to be offered on-line. Vice Provost Anderson stated that the Graduate Council could be more specific in what could be offered.

Associate Professor Chronister asked if course evaluations for on-line courses would be the same as courses offered on campus. Assistant Dean Jacek stated that course evaluations would be the same, but could be changed later if necessary. Assistant Professor Girvan suggested having the same evaluation but including a prompt if it is an on-line course where students could answer additional questions.

Associate Professor Herman stated that the focus should be on the outcome of an on-line course; i.e., how much a student learns. She asked how outcome would be captured for an on-line course vs. a course taught on campus.

Associate Professor Frost noted that on-line graduate courses need to be more flexible than undergraduate on-line courses. He noted that it seemed the UO is coming late to the game. Assistant Professor Girvan stated that it may be an advantage to come late, as it will allow the UO to incorporate existing best practices. He suggested creating templates for those who want to create on-line courses and building the templates from best practices.

Senior Instructor Kainbach noted that class size for an on-line course cannot be larger than for the same course offered on campus. He added that over 30 students in an on-line course can be difficult for the instructor.

Graduate Student Acton asked if the motivation for offering on-line courses should be added to the document. Assistant Professor Yang thought that the philosophy for offering on-line courses should be stated.

Associate Professor Herman suggested that there be an on-line training module faculty could take to demonstrate certification to teach on-line courses.

Associate Dean Hodges asked Council members to send her additional suggestions.
Old Business

None.

Updates/Announcements

Grad Summit

Associate Dean Hodges reported that on May 3, 2016 there will be a Grad Summit where representatives from the Office of Student Life, the Career Center, UO Libraries, Financial Aid, and other units will attend. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how graduate students may be better served.

Awards Update

Associate Dean Hodges thanked Council members who served on the Graduate Awards Committees. She noted that serving on the Dissertation Awards Committee has turned into a larger job than it has been in the past, due to the increased number of awards and applications. She suggested that all Graduate Council members serve on the selection committee for these awards. Assistant Professor Yang suggested that it would be helpful for the departments to rank the submissions from their department.

Associate Dean Hodges reported that this is the first year that First Year Fellowships have been offered. Students receive a full year support and are not required to teach. Select departments were given a specific number of First Year Fellowships and the department was given the task of deciding which incoming students should receive these awards. This year first year fellowships were awarded to 12 departments. Also, 40 Promising Scholar Awards have been granted this year—up from approximately 25 last year.

Three Minute Thesis

The UO Three Minute Thesis competition will be held on Friday, May 13th from 1:30 to 5:30pm. Preliminary rounds will take place from 1:30-3:00pm in 112 and 185 Lillis Hall, and the UO finals will be in 182 Lillis from 4-5:30pm.

The state-wide competition will be held on Saturday, May 21st from 3:00-6:00pm at Oregon State University. Competing in the state-wide finals will be Portland State University, Oregon State University, Oregon Health Sciences University, and the University of Oregon.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Chronister
Graduate Council Secretary