MINUTES  
The Graduate Council  
February 18, 2015  
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present:  Barbara Altmann (ex officio); Andy Berglund (ex officio); Lara Bovilsky, Krista Chronister, Alexandre Dossin, Aniko Drlik-Muehleck, Kassy Fisher (ex officio), Erik Girvan; Victoria Herman, Sara Hodges, Joseph Lowndes, Thomas Ptak, David Riley, John Russial, Mark Watson (ex officio), Frances White, Yizhao Yang, and Ben Yang

Members Absent: Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, 

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The January 21, 2015 Graduate Council minutes were approved as distributed.

New Business

Frances Bronet, Acting Senior Vice President and Provost: The Role of the Graduate Council in Law School Curricular Review

Acting Senior Vice President and Provost Frances Bronet discussed the role of the Graduate Council in approving new graduate programs as well as approving major changes to programs. She noted that Interim President Scott Coltrane believes that the Graduate Council should look at all graduate programs. Currently Law School programs and proposals except for the Conflict and dispute Resolution master's programs are not reviewed by the Graduate Council. The Graduate Council is made up of a diverse group of 12 faculty and 2 graduate students. The question is, 'where does the Law School fit in this process?' Professor John Bonine of the Law School expressed reservation at a recent University Senate meeting about the Graduate Council reviewing Law School programs.

Provost Bronet noted that the goal is to bring Law faculty into membership in the Graduate Council, but Professor Bonine wants to table this until the Law faculty have had an opportunity to discuss the matter internally. Associate Professor Lowndes reported that Professor Bonine is going to raise this issue at the Law faculty meeting on February 27, 2015.

Professor White noted that Law courses do go through the Committee on Courses, and Law faculty sit on that Committee.

Associate Professor Bovilsky stated that there are two main issues which should be keep distinct: 1) Having a Law faculty member serve on the Graduate Council; and 2) Graduate Council oversight of Law programs.

Professor White added a third consideration: 3) Consistency. A Law faculty member has been added to the Undergraduate Council.

Interim Dean Andy Berglund noted that last spring the Graduate Council approved three tracks for Master of Laws (LLM) degree program. Kellie Geldreich, Academic Affairs Manager in the Graduate School noted that previously the Law School only offered the LLM degree in Environmental and Natural Resources Law.

Provost Bronet will set up a meeting with key players. She agreed that it makes sense to keep the three issues separate so as not to lose focus.
Ms. Geldreich stated that typically less substantive changes are approved by the Graduate School. However, because there are not adequate faculty in the Graduate School currently to review the proposal, this revision is before the Graduate Council. Ms. Geldreich noted that the main changes are:

1. Adding a fourth foundational course (COLT 616: Transmedial Aesthetics)
2. Combining previous categories of courses into a cluster of six "foundational courses."
3. Clarifying how students will fulfill their language requirement.
4. Providing more intensive guidance in publishing before the student advances to candidacy.

Professor White asked if all the course numbers had been approved. Ms. Geldreich responded that all have been approved but one which has been submitted to the Committee on Courses for approval. There is some time to do this as the goal is to implement these revisions in Fall 2015. Based upon the response from Ms. Geldreich, Professor White stated that she is not concerned.

Professor Hodges stated that COLT should be commended for making changes to best serve students. Professor White stated that the revision seems to be well thought out.

Ms. Geldreich confirmed that there were no concerns by the Graduate Council about this revision.

**Policy on Faculty-Student Engagement in UO Courses**

This policy has been approved by the Undergraduate Council, is now being considered by the Graduate Council, and will then proceed to the Committee on Courses. This policy addresses on-line courses and engagement. Professor White noted that graduate-level courses often have higher credits that don’t always account for the number of hours of engagement. The focus should be on engagement, not just presentation of material in class.

Assistant Dean Kassy Fisher noted that the “implementation” section could benefit from adding a graduate component because the current language is focused on undergraduates (one hour per week per credit in class plus two hours per week credit outside class).

Associate Professor Lowndes moved to approve the policy with a parenthetical to include language differentiating the higher engagement expectation in graduate level courses. Associate Professor Chronister seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all Graduate Council members present, with the exception of Professor White who abstained.

**Dan Kimble First Year Teaching Award and Donald and Darel Stein Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award**

Due to a lack of available funds, both of these awards have been suspended. Associate Professor Bovilsky suggested incentivizing these awards to add value, even if there is not a financial component. The Graduate School will pursue a partnership with Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies to fund the awards for at least this year. The Graduate Council suggested renaming the Stein Award and keeping the Kimble Award as is.

**New Program Proposal Checklist**

Ms. Geldreich explained that this checklist was drafted by Academic Affairs and edited by Ms. Geldreich. She asked Graduate Council members for their input and approval.

Interim Dean Berglund suggested adding “documentation of commitment” to the third bullet under “Course of Study.”

Associate Professor Lowndes stated that the document needs language to clarify that just by meeting the checklist requirements, it doesn't equate to approval. The review is a deliberate process.

Professor White stated that there needs to be language to indicate that there has been approval, or is in the process of getting approval, from the Committee on Courses. There needs to be a representative
from the Committee on Courses on the Graduate Council. Another alternative is to make the proposer supply an email from the Committee on Courses confirming the status of unregularized courses.

Graduate student Drlik-Muehleck suggested that the checklist should signal any other forms that are needed in the checklist.

Interim Dean Berglund stated that the plan is to make a few edits to the document and then route it to the Graduate Council for approval by email.

Old Business

None.

Deans Updates/Announcements

Graduate Student Research Forum Update

Interim Dean Berglund reported that over 150 graduate students will be participating in the Graduate Student Research Forum to be held on Friday, February 20th, in the Ford Alumni Center. He asked Graduate Council members to attend and encourage others to attend as well.

Update from Interim Graduate School Dean Andy Berglund

Interim Dean Berglund stated that he has accepted a position with the University of Florida and will be leaving the UO at the end of Spring term. Interim Dean Berglund commented that he has very much enjoyed his tenure at the UO as well as his time with the Graduate School and Graduate Council.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances White
Graduate Council Secretary