MINUTES
The Graduate Council
January 16, 2013
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Barbara Altmann (ex officio), Cynthia Anderson, Jeffrey Ewing, Michele Henney, Sara Hodges, Joseph Lowndes, Andrew Marcus (ex officio), Sandra Morgen (ex officio), Dorothee Ostmeier, Andrew Pokorny, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Mark Watson (ex officio), Frances White, Alia Yasen

Members Absent: Marcin Bownik, Patricia Dewey, Kimberly Espy (ex officio), Debra Merskin, Brian McWhorter, Bish Sen

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kassy Fisher, Jered Nagel, Kyle Reynolds, Marcia Walker

Guests: Ruth Keele, Robert Horner, Christopher Murray

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The November 21, 2012 minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

Approval of Revised Joint Graduate Council/Graduate Student Advisory Board Survey Memo

Andrew Pokorny suggested eliminating the word “ironically” from the attachment to the memo. Professor Ostmeier asked about data for departments/colleges that had a smaller number of graduate students, making the data unreliable. Dean Morgen suggested adding a statement that data for departments with less than five responses is not included.

The Graduate Council unanimously approved the wording of the memo with the changes noted above.

New Business

College of Education Proposal – Graduate Specialization in Prevention Science

Dean Morgen explained that this proposal is not required to go to OUS for approval, and it will be our first opportunity to work through the process for specializations. The proposal meets the minimum standards, so that issue will not need to be addressed by the Graduate Council. Dean Morgen opened the floor for discussion.

Professor Anderson noted that this proposal has been approved by the College of Education Curriculum Committee.

Professor Hodges expressed concern that the research project required of students should not exploit students as menial work but should be designed so that it will enhance students’ skills, citing the “engage in research activities” language from the handout. Dean Morgen noted that this is a very active research unit that does a lot of research projects. Dean Morgen stated that the Council could request reporting or an inventory of research projects that could serve in advertising the program.

Professor Hodges stated that students write a paper about what research they do, so there shouldn’t be a problem.

Professor Anderson noted that other departments are not asked to document the research that students perform, so why ask this department to do so. Professor Hodges replied that this is a situation where students are given research projects. Professor Henney asked if students could be given a choice of research projects. Professor Anderson was concerned we not set a bar that other departments don’t have to cross.
Alia Yasen noted that as a graduate student, she has had choices of research projects, but only to a limited extent. The choice needs to be based on the work for which the lab has been funded.

Professor Anderson suggested that it might be appropriate to simply make the proposers aware of the Graduate Council’s concern. Dean Tuan noted that this may be a way for a student to have an opportunity to do research where it might not otherwise exist.

Dean Morgen noted that the College of Education would like to be able to offer this in the fall of 2013.

Jered Nagel requested that the proposers add one line clarifying the minimum requirements for graduate students from other departments.

The Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal with the provision that the proposal be resubmitted to the Graduate School to reflect changes noted in their discussion above. Only if the changes are not adequate will the proposal will be brought back to the Graduate Council for further deliberation.

**College of Education Proposal for a New Graduate Certificate in Online Learning to be offered through EMPL**

Dean Morgen noted that this proposal does go on to OUS for further approval. The College of Education wants to give working professional opportunities to continue their education. Dean Morgen further noted that this department already does quite a bit of off-campus education and has experience with non-traditional (not on campus) students. She thought this was a very exciting idea.

Dean Tuan, who sits on the Committee on Courses for the Graduate School, expressed a concern about the substantive nature and rigor of the courses. Professor Anderson stated that while this looks like a great idea, she has concern that there will be no one to teach and seconded the concern about course rigor.

Mark Watson stated that it would be desirable to have a presentation to the Graduate Council from the proposers. Dean Morgen agreed and noted that the presentation would need to be focused on the Council’s concerns:

1. The substantive nature of the coursework: rigor, content
2. The mechanisms of assessment
3. Is this technical training or academic

Dean Morgen will invite the proposers of the Certificate to the next Graduate Council meeting to talk about these issues to the Council. VP Keele stated that it is appropriate for both the Graduate Council and the Committee on Courses to look at this proposal.

Professor Hodges requested Council members to email to her or Dean Morgen any additional questions they may have for the speakers to discuss when they come to the next Graduate Council meeting.

**College of Education Request to Appoint NTTF (Non Tenure-Track Faculty) to Chair Dissertation Committees**

Professors Horner and Murray from Special Education and Clinical Sciences spoke to the Graduate Council about the issue of Special Education NTTF chairing dissertation committees.

Professor Murray stated that in Special Education there are quite a few NTTF who are high-achieving research active faculty members. In the past they have been allowed to serve, but that changed, with some grandfathered in to allow them to continue to serve as chair. Professor Murray explained that NTTF feel it is demeaning to not be allowed to chair, and the College agrees. Professor Murray said that they were asked if allowing this wouldn’t mean taking advantage of NTTF by allowing them to chair, but the college believes that individuals who are given the option to chair would choose it. In any case it would be their choice.
Professor Horner stated that it is important to know that this practice has long been done in COE and that students very much want these faculty as chair. Another question was raised as to whether this would decrease the need for tenure-line faculty. Horner thought this would not be the case.

Professor Hodges said that as the chair is ultimately responsible, there are concerns with FTE. Professor Murray responded that we would recommend not committing to be Chair unless you have adequate funding.

Dean Tuan asked how many faculty would be nominated for such a position. Professor Murray responded that it would be less than half of the NTTF in Special Education.

Dean Morgen asked how many doctoral students go into tenure track jobs ion research universities versus research. Professor Murray responded that 75 percent go to tenure-line faculty positions and 25 percent to research. Professor Murray noted that the type of people who would serve in this capacity and who meet our criteria would be able to positively affect launching a student’s career.

Professor Ostmeier asked if allowing NTTF to chair would help them move up in their career. Professor Horner noted that a NTTF position is not a dead-end position—these people are often hired elsewhere in tenure positions. This would never be an expected way to move up in their career.

Professor Hodges asked if there is a method of evaluating how NTTF perform in their duties as chair. Professor Horner responded that a doctoral committee monitors each student and knows how they are doing. They would not consider nomination of an NTTF as chair without monitoring how things were going.

Professor Enjuto Rangel raised the concern that if a NTTF is prepared to do this, he or she is only paid half of what a TTF receives, and this does not set a good precedent. It may make sense for the COE, but what about other units.

Dean Morgen replied that each college or school makes their own decisions about this kind of policy. The Graduate School wouldn’t make this decision, the department and college level decides first.

Professor Anderson said that it would be opening the gate if we allow this exception for the COE. Dean Marcus noted that for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), it would be different. The potential in CAS is 1200 NTTFs—not 10 like in the COE.

Dean Morgen noted that there are other things we could do such as petition to the Graduate School. We could not change our policy and say to COE that we will decide on a case by case basis. Professor Horner stated that this would not be a problem. Professor Anderson stated that this would allow us not to make a new policy.

VP Altmann noted that under the current collective bargaining process, we do not have the option to change a policy. It needs to be negotiated. Dean Morgen stated that we will table the policy change and continue the past practice of seeking exemptions. VP Altmann suggested that this may need to be brought to the attention of the bargaining team, and Professor Horner stated that this has been done.

Other Business

Dean Morgen stated that a request for proposals has been sent for the Innovations in Graduate Education program. Each year the program highlights particular themes identified as a priority by the Graduate School. This year Track 1 focuses on supporting graduate specializations. Proposals are due for Track 1 proposals by this Friday, January 18, 2013. Dean Morgen asked for a member of the Graduate Council to volunteer to serve on the selection committee, and Professor Anderson volunteered to serve.

Deans’ Updates
The Graduate Student Research Forum’s date has been changed to May 9, 2013 in light of the Dalai Lama’s visit to Eugene. Kyle Reynolds stated that the deadline for graduate student proposal submissions has passed. We will be looking for faculty volunteers to be moderators at the Research Forum on May 9, 2013.

Data distribution meetings are being held in winter/spring 2013.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cecilia Enjuto Rangel