MINUTES
The Graduate Council
May 15, 2013
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Marcin Bownik, Patricia Dewey, Kimberly Espy (ex officio), Ruth Keele (ex officio), Sara Hodges, Joseph Lowndes, Dorothee Ostmeier, Brian McWhorter, Andrew Pokorny, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Mark Watson (ex officio, Frances White

Members Absent: Barbara Altmann (ex officio), Cynthia Anderson, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Jeffrey Ewing, Michele Henney, Sandra Morgen (ex officio), Andrew Marcus (ex officio), Debra Merskin, Bish Sen, Alia Yasen

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The April 17, 2013 minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

There was no old business for the Graduate Council to discuss.

New Business

Embargo of the Scholars Bank Copy of Dissertations

Guests: Karen Estlund and Kira Homo, UO Libraries

Karen Estlund distributed a handout describing UO Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD) current and proposed publishing options as follows:

Current Options
1. Creative Writing only
   a. Traditional bound print thesis or dissertation – copies available in Knight Library
   b. ETD is not an option

2. All others
   a. ETD Required with Open Access publishing
   b. Publicly available with optional embargoes:
      i. 6 month embargo
      ii. 1 year embargo
      iii. 2 years embargo

Proposed Options
1. ETDs required for all
2. Publishing options
   a. Open Access
      i. No embargo
      ii. 6 month embargo
      iii. 1 year embargo
      iv. 2 years embargo
   b. UO only in perpetuity
      i. UO only is enforced through IP authentication
      ii. UO faculty, students, and staff can access off-campus when logged in through the VPN
      iii. Public can access when on campus and accessing from a computer that does not require a log-in (e.g. public terminals in the libraries)
Legal Requirements

- Copyright belongs to the student
  - Exception: Architecture students transfer rights to all student work to AAA when they enroll

- Thesis and dissertations are permanent university records
  - OAR 166-475-0110(47)
  - Public access is required

After a brief question and answer period and further discussion regarding ETD publishing options, Professor Dewey moved that the Graduate Council endorse the proposed options as presented. Professor McWhorter seconded the motion. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed ETD publishing options.

New Graduate Specialization in Food Studies

Guest: Stephen Wooten, Associate Professor, International Studies

Professor Wooten explained that the UO is uniquely positioned to address the need for a truly interdisciplinary graduate level food studies program that spans the social sciences, the humanities, and the natural sciences. This new graduate specialization in food studies will deliver valuable curricular and career enhancement opportunities that will draw top-notch students to the UO and provide support to a large number of current students who are now working independently without the benefit of a focused program. Professor Wooten noted that the plan is to offer this specialization starting in fall of 2013.

Doctoral student Andrew Pokorny noted that this specialization has an 8 credit “breadth requirement” in which students complete two 4-credit food related courses outside their focal academic division. He asked about the practical value of students taking 8 credits outside their core field. For example, what would be the practical value of a student in Biology taking four credits of Folklore?

Professor Wooten responded that the goal is to enrich the student taking these classes and to give that student exposure to something that would be a complement to his or her core field. An added benefit is that the student will develop fluency in classes outside his core area that could be shared in future job interviews.

Professor Hodges asked about the number of graduate students expected, and Professor Wooten responded that there are 28-29 self-identified students who are currently interested in attaining this food studies specialization.

Professor Hodges noted that most of the courses are listed as 400/500 level courses. Professor Wooten stated that this is not unique to Food Studies, and that a lot of graduate education is completed in 400/500 level courses. Professor Hodges next asked if these courses have prerequisites. Would interdisciplinary students taking courses outside their disciplines be comfortable taking these 400/500 level courses? Professor Wooten responded that faculty teaching these courses would be aware that students are taking these courses outside their discipline and added that courses will be selected with guidance from and the approval of the specialization Coordinator.

Professor Ostmeier commented that the specialization Coordinator should have financial support or a GTF to help with the work load. Professor Hodges asked if there was an advisory board or committee that could help take the pressure off the Coordinator. Professor Wooten responded that there is currently an executive committee made up of a faculty group that would evolve to an advisory board.

Professor Ostmeier suggested a yearly review with a written report to be added to the student’s file. During this yearly review both coordinators from the food studies specialization and the student’s home discipline would be present to ensure that the student knows this is a collaborative process. Professor Wooten agreed that this would be a good idea to implement.

Professor Wooten then left the Council meeting, and Council members further discussed the food studies specialization.
Professor White stated that it is a concern to have students taking 500 level courses when there may be a need for a basic knowledge of the subject matter that should be acquired in undergraduate courses in that field. Professor Hodges agreed and suggested it could change the dynamics of a 500 level course if there are large numbers of Food Studies students in a course that is not in their basic field.

Professor McWhorter stated that it was his understanding that a course listing should specify prerequisites of that course. He asked if it might be wise to have a food studies specialization advisor responsible for advising students about courses and their requirements.

Professor White stated that it could be more than one class required. It could be a broad spectrum of prerequisites that are needed before taking a particular 500 level course. She suggested that an advisory committee to the food studies specialization should be made up from a broad range of departments.

Jered Nagel commented that it is up to the student to determine if they have the necessary background for classes they take.

Professor Hodges strongly recommended that there be an advisory board that would help the food studies specialization Coordinator determine what courses are recommended.

Professor Hodges summarized factors that the Graduate Council would like to food studies specialization proponents to consider:

- There should be compensation (stipend, course release) for the coordinator of the program.

- There was concern about the number of 500-level courses. Conversely, there was also concern about whether students from one academic division would have the appropriate background/prerequisites to take a graduate course in another academic division, and also whether sudden addition of students from an outside division would be welcome in some of the courses. Students in the specialization should be advised that just because a course is part of the specialization, it may not be a good choice for all students in the specialization. Communication and updates with the departments who teach courses that are part of the specialization is also encouraged.

- There should be an explicit provision to have in place advisory committee or executive committee (perhaps formed from the current steering committee) that would contribute to the following activities as well as additional duties:
  a. Advising students (including advising students about whether they have the prerequisites/background for courses outside their home academic division;
  b. Arranging internships;
  c. Coming up with/updating the list of courses that count as part of the specialization
  d. Evaluating the program (what’s going well, what might need to be tweaked)

- There should be a written component to the students’ advising/review meetings, and we encourage the students’ disciplinary advisors to be included in these meetings.

- There should be a plan created now with a stated time frame to evaluate how things are going in the program in the future.

- There should be more explicit structure to the requirements for the internships (e.g., a stated number of hours of work to be contributed and/or a paper required to describe the experience).

Professor White moved to approve the proposal for the new specialization in food studies with the above considerations. Professor McWhorter seconded the motion. The Graduate Council approved the motion unanimously.
Dean Fisher posed the following questions to the Graduate Council:

- What specific contract provisions do you feel were particularly helpful (and should be retained/expanded)?
- What specific contract provisions have you experienced to be a barrier (and should be changed) as you directed the work of GTFs?
- How might we improve the contract to better support your department’s operational or programmatic needs (e.g., its teaching/research mission, graduate student recruitment, retention, degree completion?

Dean Fisher stated that there will be two open-door meetings scheduled to talk about working with GTFs and what should be added. The focus will not be on financial aspects of the contract.

Dean Fisher asked Council members to let her know if they would be interested in being a sounding board for ideas that arise and to be available to answer questions during negotiations.

Deans’ Updates

- Dean Fisher reported that the UO Career Center’s web pages designed for graduate students are now published, and the Career Center is correcting the situation where access is only given to those who create a user profile.

- Dean Tuan expressed her thanks to Graduate Council members who are cycling out this year for their service. Dean Tuan also announced that Jered Nagel is leaving the Graduate School to take a position in the School of Journalism and Communications.

- Kyle Reynolds reported that the 3 Minute Thesis competition was a success and it was impressive to hear students condense their years of research into a three minute presentation. He noted that there were 75 participants with winners in the following fields: Linguistics – Linda Konnerth; Geography – Mathew Goslin; and Geological Sciences – Meaghan Emery. The UO, Oregon State University, and Portland State University plan a statewide competition in 2014, with winners from each campus vying for the state championship.

- Council members discussed this year’s Graduate Student Research Forum. Mark Watson stated that he thought the students did an excellent job and he was impressed with their research. Professor Lowndes stated that he thought the research topics were matched up well in the sessions. Dean Fisher reported that the Graduate Student Research Forum will be returning to a Friday in February next year.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Enjuto Rangel