MINUTES
The Graduate Council
October 21, 2015
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mariah Acton, Adell Amos (ex officio); Susan Anderson (ex officio), Shanka Chakraborty, Hank Childs, Krista Chronister, Alexandre Dossin, Stephen Frost, Tory Herman, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Kaori Idemaru, Alison Kwok, Scott Pratt (ex officio); John Russial, and Ben Yang

Members Absent: Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, Thomas Ptak, David Riley, Mark Watson (ex officio),

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Brandy Teel, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The meeting opened with introductions of those in attendance. The September 23, 2015 minutes were approved as distributed.

New Business

Graduate Council representative for Academic Council

Associate Dean Hodges announced that Associate Professor Herman has agreed to serve on the Academic Council as the Graduate Council representative. Dean Pratt explained that the role of the Academic Council is to discuss and review academic issues and present recommendations for action to the University Senate. Associate Professor Herman will send an email to Graduate Council members asking if they have interest in serving as an alternate representative for Academic Council.

Proposed Graduate Specialization in Culture, Identity, and Politics

Graduate Council members discussed the proposed Specialization in Culture, Identity, and Politics (CIP). Associate Professor Herman was interested in the admissions process and how the program will be administered. Professor Chakraborty asked about the goal of the CIP specialization and how it would help students in the job market.

Associate Professor Russial wanted to know more about the requirement that students participate for at least two terms in a one credit dissertation writing group. Associate Dean Hodges explained that the purpose of the one credit dissertation writing group was to bring students from different departments together to support each other.

Senior Vice Provost Anderson expressed interest in understanding why the proposed CIP specialization does not have core courses.

Associate Professor Chronister noted that last year the Graduate Council reviewed a New Program Proposal Checklist. She asked if a similar set of requirements for specializations had been created. Kellie Geldreich, Academic Affairs Manager, stated that there was not.

Daniel HoSang, Associate Professor in Ethnic Studies, and Priscilla Yamin, Associate Professor in Political Science, joined the Graduate Council to discuss the proposal and answer questions from Council members.

Associate Professor HoSang distributed an initial list of participating faculty for the CIP specialization along with a timeline of the development of the proposed specialization.

Associate Professor Childs asked about the admissions procedure for the CIP specialization. Associate Professor HoSang explained that there will be a three to five member Coordinating Committee who will
make admissions decisions. The Coordinating Committee will initially be appointed by the heads of Political Science and English departments. Subsequently, the Coordinating Committee will be appointed by the heads of Political Science and English in consultation with the current members of the Coordinating Committee.

Associate Professor Herman noted that the proposal anticipated cohorts of three to five students and asked if the CIP Specialization could accommodate larger numbers. Associate Professor HoSang responded that the goal is to work with a manageable number of students. The goal is also to have students who self-identify as having interest in culture, identity and politics in the interdisciplinary framework this specialization offers and who want to have the ability to be conversant in a discipline other than their major.

Graduate Student Mariah Acton asked if courses could be retroactively applied to obtain the specialization, and Associate Professor HoSang stated that they could be.

Senior Vice Provost Susan Anderson asked about the cohesiveness of the classes in this specialization; what binds them all together so students have a common grounding? Associate Professor HoSang stated that the purpose was to give students a framework of what the specialization looks like. Associate Professor Russial asked if there are courses that could be considered core courses. Associate Dean Hodges added that there appears to be enough faculty to consider having two to three courses designated as core courses. Associate Professor HoSang stated that a compromise might be a range of courses that could be grouped together that students would select from.

Associate Professor Yamin added that the one credit dissertation course is meant to create a community among the students seeking this specialization.

Council members agreed that the proposed specialization name should be changed to more accurately reflect the intersection between English Literature and Political Science. In addition, the specialization proposal should state that it is open to students with intersecting interests in this area, and should specify core courses.

Dean Pratt stated that when the revised specialization is submitted, it will be sent by email to Graduate Council members to vote on.

Graduate Student Research Forum

Brandy Teel, Engagement and Opportunities Manager at the Graduate School, distributed a handout describing the Graduate Student Research Forum (Grad Forum) as a one-day conference held annually at the UO to showcase research, scholarship and creative expressions by graduate students in all of the UO’s graduate colleges and schools. The Grad Forum showcases the work of more than 100 graduate students representing more than 50 disciplines.

This year’s Grad Forum will take place on February 26, 2016 from 10:00am – 4:00pm at the Ford Alumni Center.

At each Grad Forum there are panel sessions and a poster session. Awards are given to selected participants. For panel sessions, graduate student can apply to present as a panel group or they can apply individually and the Graduate School will put the panel together. At the poster session last year, over 100 graduate students presented their work.

Graduate Council members can help in the following ways:

1. Tell students about Grad Forum;
2. Encourage graduate student across disciplines to talk about submitting their work together; and
3. Suggest and provide contact information for potential donors to support the Grad Forum so that more awards can be given to participating students.
The themes of this year’s Grad Forum are:

- **Crossing Borders, Crossing Cultures, Crossing Frontiers**: Language, migration, identity, and the synthesis of culture
- **Breaking New Ground in the Sciences**: Approaches to reproducibility and data management, shifting paradigms, and innovative research practices
- **Challenges for a New Generation of Leaders**: Policy, scientific, and social approaches to emerging and continuing catastrophes
- **In Our Own Backyard**: Pacific Northwest life, research and education, community and philanthropy
- **Ecology and Sustainability**: Adaptation, succession, homeostasis, and planning.

Associate Dean Hodges asked Council members how the Grad Forum could better serve students. If Council members have ideas, please submit them to Brandy Teel.

Professor Kwok noted that feedback from students about the Grad Forum was positive. Graduate student Mariah Acton liked that last year’s Grad Forum was competitive and not all students who applied were automatically accepted. Associate Dean Hodges explained that the purpose was to have fewer panels with better audience numbers.

Associate Dean Hodges said that Council members will be asked to participate in this year’s Grad Forum by attending, becoming judges, and recommending other faculty who could participate as well as outside community members who serve as judges and/or donors to the event.

**Coordinating with Other Universities’ Graduate Programs**

Dean Pratt explained that Oregon universities are not to have duplicate programs. When a new program is proposed, it cannot be the same as an already existing program at another institution. The problem that currently exists is that institutions don’t have a common language. Common standards are needed to compare programs across institutions.

Dean Pratt charged the Graduate Council to review and edit the draft of Master’s Degree Guidelines and to send those edits to Dean Pratt. Dean Pratt will compile the edits and bring the edited draft to Graduate Council for review.

**Adjourn**

The Council adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Krista Chronister
Graduate Council Secretary