MINUTES
The Graduate Council
October 19, 2016
Johnson Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Susan Anderson (ex officio), Lara Bovilsky, Christian Cherry (ex officio), Krista Chronister, Stephen Frost, Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, Erik Girvan, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Laura Jacek (ex officio), Jacqlyn King, Alison Kwok, Danaan O’Donnell-Davidson, Scott Pratt (ex officio); Nicholas Proudfoot, John Russial, Carol Stabile (ex officio), Hailan Wang, Mark Watson (ex officio), and Ben Yang

Members Absent: Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Shanka Chakraborty, and David Riley

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich

Guests: Sue Eveland, University Registrar and Tuong Vu, Professor, Political Science

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm. The September 21, 2016 Graduate Council minutes were approved as distributed.

New Business

Asian Studies Specialization Proposal

Graduate Council members discussed the Asian Studies Specialization proposal. Associate Professor Russial questioned if the class size is large enough. He noted the breadth of classes and asked if this was truly a specialization. Associate Professor Frost asked if the classes were Asian focused.

Associate Dean Hodges asked if Asian Studies majors are eligible to receive this specialization. Registrar Eveland noted that Asian Studies majors shouldn’t receive both a degree and be awarded the specialization as well.

Academic Affairs Manager Kellie Geldreich asked about learning outcomes.

Professor Vu then joined the Graduate Council to discuss the Asian Studies Specialization and answer Graduate Council member questions.

Associate Professor Russial asked if one of the Core Requirement classes, ASIA 612, was large enough to accommodate all students or if another section should be added. Professor Vu stated that there were only two to three students entering the class, and that some years there were not enough students to justify offering the class. He noted that the class being too large is not a concern, and getting 12-15 students would be ideal.

Associate Professor Bovilsky asked what the class cap is for ASIA 612. Professor Vu replied that 10 students would be good with up to 25 students being the maximum. He doubts that there will be above 20 students in the specialization taking the class at once.

Professor Garcia-Pabon asked how many students are expected in the specialization. Professor Vu stated that it would be good if there were more than 10 students in the next 5 years.

Associate Professor Russial noted that this doesn’t seem very specialized and asked about the thinking behind the specialization. Professor Vu responded that the same thing could be said about the Asian Studies major itself which is an interdisciplinary program. This specialization will be desirable for prospective employers as it shows an interest in the area. He noted that while the student may have a broad knowledge of the subject matter, it may lead to an interest to deepen that knowledge.
Associate Professor Bovilsky asked about the East Asian Languages and Literature (EALL) students, and if advising could play a role in a more specific focused inquiry. Professor Vu replied that most students are expected to be self-motivated and know what they want but will be given guidance on courses. A smaller minority will be more generally motivated by the subject matter. Professor Vu doesn’t expect that EALL students would be interested in the specialization as they are already in an Asian major.

Associate Dean Hodges asked if Asian Studies majors could receive the specialization. Professor Tu replied that that Asian Studies majors would not be able to receive the specialization, nor would they need it.

Associate Professor Proudfoot asked about the impetus for the specialization. Professor Tu responded that other faculty have reported that this is something students want, and other universities offer similar specializations.

Senior Vice Provost Anderson noted that some of the classes listed in the specialization have people teaching them who are no longer with the University of Oregon. Professor Tu noted that this information will need to be updated to reflect the current breadth of options available. Associate Dean Hodges asked if the Asian Studies Board would review the list of breadth offerings, and Professor Tu replied in the affirmative.

Professor Tu then left the Graduate Council meeting, and Council members continued their discussion of the specialization.

Professor Garcia-Pabon remarked that they may be able to have a more specialized track in the future, but currently there are not enough students.

Director Cherry noted that a focused project was not included in the specialization. He suggested that a class with a focused project could help tie it all together.

Associate Professor Chronister expressed concern with the specialization’s perceived value with employers if too broad to give specialized knowledge.

Associate Dean Hodges suggested recommending that the Asian Studies Director individually talk with students in the specialization about their choice of courses and suggest related courses that would form breadth themes to students. Associate Professor Bovilsky motioned to approve the specialization with the recommendation on advising. Associate Professor Russial seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Updates/Announcements**

**Professional Courses**

The Graduate Council considered proposed graduate American English Institute (AEI) courses and the larger issue of giving credit for graduate professional development/skills classes.

Director Cherry noted that the University of Oregon Committee on Courses (UOCC) is not approving graduate classes that are professional courses.

Registrar Eveland noted that these courses should instead use the generic 608 number.

Assistant Professor Girvan noted that in professional schools, courses are heavily skill based. He asked if the question should be phrased less in terms of skills vs not skills-based, but whether the courses are remedial in some sense or whether the courses are very specialized for graduate study.

Associate Professor Proudfoot asked if pedagogy courses were taught in individual departments. Associate Professor Bovilsky replied that the English Department teaches four such courses.
Dean Pratt noted that AEI courses are offered after discussion with the Graduate School and based on cultural competence and the opportunity to learn skills to teach in English at the graduate level. It is also important for international students to have this as a part of course offerings.

Associate Professor Frost noted that Anthropology has lots of international students. Cultural competency classes are different than remedial classes or skills/professional classes.

Registrar Eveland stated that the history of the American English Program was that its classes all used to be all non-credit classes. It is unusual for a non-academic department to offer 600-level courses. Such departments have no tenured faculty.

Associate Dean Hodges summarized the issues as: courses being offered through a non-academic unit, and whether they are professional or skills courses.

Associate Professor Chronister suggested having TEP offer graduate courses in pedagogical issues. This would free up faculty time, etc. The course number communicates that we think these courses have value.

The Council discussed that a range of professional development or skill-based classes could be at the graduate level as part of a graduate program.

**First Year Fellowship Awards**

Dean Pratt noted that the metrics for giving these awards to departments will need to be revised since the Student Experience Survey was used last year, but that survey is not completed each year. Please let him know about suggestions to capture that information, and perhaps it will be added to the November Council meeting.

**Interdisciplinary Studies: Individualized Master’s Program (IS:IP)**

Dean Pratt reported an expansion of the IS:IP. One part of the plan is to provide funding to faculty involved in IS:IP. More information about the expansion plans will be brought to a future Graduate Council meeting.

The Council adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Chronister
Graduate Council Secretary