MINUTES
The Graduate Council
May 5, 2021
Via Zoom

Members Present:  Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Robin Clement, Katherine Donaldson (ex officio), Ihab Elzeyadi, Marina Guenza, Beth Harn, Burke Hendrix, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Fabienne Moore, Dorothee Ostmeier, Ellen Peters, Jeremy Piger, Julia Pomerenk (ex officio), Joan Rocklin, Leslie Straka, Frances White (ex officio), Chelsea Wright, Hong Yuan

Members Absent:  Felicia Gutierrez, Huaxin Lin

Graduate School Staff in Attendance:  Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

The meeting was called to order at 3:32pm and the April minutes were approved.

Update on Graduate School Transition

Andy Karduna reminded the Graduate Council that once Kate Mondloch had stepped down as Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, he had moved into the new role of Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Studies. He noted that there is currently an internal search underway for a permanent Vice Provost for Graduate Studies that will report to Janet Woodruff-Borden, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Additionally, the name of the Graduate School will change to Division of Graduate Studies. This will be a gradual transition as it moves into the Office of the Provost and means that language in various policies, contracts, handbooks, catalogs, forms, etc. will have to be updated over time. The Graduate School's Director of Finance and Administration, Lisa Howard, had also stepped down resulting in many departmental processes moving to a shared services.

An upcoming Graduate Partners meeting will offer information and guidance on policies, procedures, and upcoming deadlines. This meeting was previously known as the Graduate Coordinators meeting, but underwent a name change to include a wider range of individuals with varying titles, not just Graduate Coordinators. A Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) meeting is also scheduled, and will cover topics surrounding masters and doctoral programs, questions about the future of graduate education, and suggestions on what needs improvement.

Philosophy MA and PhD – Revision

This proposal was discussed in the April Graduate Council meeting and the formal vote occurred today. Robin Clement motioned to approve the Philosophy MA and PhD revisions. Ihab Elzeyadi seconded the motion and the Council approved.

Landscape Architecture – Revision

The proposed revisions to the Landscape Architecture program are intended to better streamline the MLA degree. Professor Roxi Thoren joined the meeting as representative of this proposal and explained that since the MLA became a standalone degree, there were several inefficiencies that needed to be addressed. The changes made to ease this confusion include:

- Taking the 300 and 400 level course requirements and rewriting them into a 400/500 level “ecotech” sequence, combining courses on plants, horticulture, design, etc. with courses on technology, such as drainage and site structures.
The 300 and 400 level courses from which this new course was derived are still available and have not been eliminated.

- Swapping 2 years of curriculum so that context courses come first and tactics courses come second, rather than vice versa
- Creating 2-credit media classes that sit alongside 6-credit design studios allowing students to be directly supported in design training
- Requiring MLA students to complete 4 credits of supervised research

The Graduate Council noticed that a 600 level course was being offered in the summer, before 400/500 level courses, and wondered if this was common. Roxi explained that this summer course is intended for students from non-architecture backgrounds and focuses on foundational learning such as site documentation, fieldwork, how to use scale, draft plans, and other skills needed to be successful in other courses. Since many courses in the program serve both BLA and MLA students, the summer course will help keep MLA students from falling too far behind.

Courses in this proposal are currently being processed by UOCC, but Frances White is not anticipating any issues.

Robin Clement motioned to approve this proposal and the Council was in agreement.

**Multimedia Journalism – New Accelerated Masters’ Program**

Professor Regina Lawrence joined the Graduate Council meeting to answer questions and offer insight on this proposal to implement an Accelerated Master’s Program (AMP) in Multimedia Journalism. She explained that there had been a history of students returning to the UO to complete the MMJ after graduating with a bachelor’s, and it occurred to the department that developing an AMP would allow students to obtain their masters more efficiently. Jered Nagel mentioned to the Council that this program is for students to get an early start on graduate level work without affecting undergraduate requirements, unlike the AMP in Economics which allows students fulfill credits for graduate and undergraduate classes simultaneously. Undergraduate students would apply for the AMP program in their junior year and start taking graduate level courses in their senior year. Once the bachelor’s degree is conferred, they would formally be accepted into the master’s program via an internal process within the department. Commonly, when a student enrolls in a graduate course, they must complete an approval form noting that they’ve been accepted into the AMP.

The Graduate Council pointed out that there was confusion on which courses were taught in Eugene and which were taught in Portland. Regina confirmed that this will be more clearly described in the final revision of the proposal. Usually students would obtain their bachelor’s in Eugene then relocate to Portland for their master’s. Since the Portland classes are mostly offered in the evening or on weekends, it is the hope that AMP undergraduates would be able to also take courses in Portland. She also noted that there is interest in exploring hybrid options in the future.

One main revision that is still being sorted out is the removal of the 2-credit 601 course, as it cannot be listed as a requirement. It is intended that students be required to work with an advisor during the summer to develop a terminal project idea so that they can begin working on it in the fall of their 5th year. This requirement is currently being worked into the proposal as a program requirement rather than a course requirement. Additionally, there is a process for having faculty sign off on the project topic to ensure that it is feasible.

Overall, the Council agreed that the above concerns need to be better clarified within the proposal. Since the UOCC is still reviewing several courses within the proposal, the Council will not be able to vote until the next meeting.
Preferred Name/Gender Marker Policies

The Graduate Council continued their discussion on potentially allowing students to retroactively change their name on thesis or dissertation after graduating if their name legally changes later on. Jered Nagel had shared the PSU Registrar’s policy on this topic. Overall, the Council was impressed with the policy and believes that adopting this at the UO is a great next step in being more inclusive of students. Jered volunteered to write up a policy and add it to the agenda as a proposal to review in an upcoming Council meeting.

Katherine Donaldson mentioned that students should be encouraged to apply for an ORCID. An ORCID is a digital identifier that will always be associated with their work whether they change their name or not, and is commonly used by scholars. There is even a field when students submit their dissertation to include their ORCID if they have one.

LGBTESS Coordinator, Hales Wilson, joined the meeting to further advocate on behalf of students. She voiced that the process for allowing students to update their name should be easily accessible, and that students should be adequately supported through the process. Once the Graduate School solidifies the language of the policy, the information should be posted to the LGBTESS webpage, as well as referenced on the Graduate School’s and Registrar’s webpages. Hales also voiced the importance of implementing systems that include training staff and faculty on how to properly use pronouns, as well as a mechanism for making individual pronouns accessible to those who regularly interact with students.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fabienne Moore
Graduate Council Secretary