MINUTES
The Graduate Council
March 3, 2021
Via Zoom

Members Present: Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Robin Clement, Katherine Donaldson (ex officio), Beth Harn, Burke Hendrix, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Kate Mondloch (ex officio), Huaxin Lin, Fabienne Moore, Dorothee Ostmeier, Ellen Peters Jeremy Piger, Julia Pomerenk (ex officio), Leslie Straka, Chelsea Wright, Hong Yuan

Members Absent: Ihab Elzeyadi, Marina Guenza, Felicia Gutierrez, Joan Rocklin, Frances White (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm and the February minutes were approved.

Updates from Dean

Kate Mondloch informed the Graduate Council that the Provost Office has decided to structure the Graduate School under the leadership of a Vice Provost rather than a Dean, and that she will be stepping down at the end of winter term. There is currently no set timeline for when the search for a new VP will begin, but the goal is to have them fill the position by the start of fall term. In the meantime, Andy Karduna will continue as Associate Dean and oversee all Graduate School functions. The transition is not expected to impact the Graduate Council’s day-to-day operations.

There had been word from Janet Woodruff-Borden that she plans to add new positions to the Graduate School, but it hasn’t yet been decided on what positions those will be. Robin Clement will be meeting with Spike Gildea to discuss, define, and possibly expand the Graduate Council’s role to ensure it has a strong voice across campus.

Jazz Pedagogy – New Specialization

This proposal was discussed in a previous meeting, but could not be voted on due to issues in the regularization of the 1-credit practicum class in which students are to briefly teach an ensemble. Andy Karduna had reached out to ELR to confirm that teaching in this manner did not violate any policies, and that a student does not need to be a GE to partake in this teaching aspect of the practicum. This course was also resubmitted to Course Leaf with a syllabus specific to Jazz, rather than creating a generic syllabus for various courses across SOMD.

Robin Clement motioned to approve the proposal. Huaxin Lin seconded the motion, and the Council approved.

Music Theory Pedagogy – New Specialization

This proposal was discussed in a previous meeting, but could not be voted on due to issues with the 1-credit 609 practicum course. It was decided that it would instead be included the 639 theory, pedagogy, and practicum course, and the 609 course was removed as requirement. The proposal had also required a graduate seminar 607 in music theory which has since gone through regularization going from 3 to 4 credits and is now listed as 670. This change makes up for the removal of the 1-credit practicum course. Frances White in UOCC had approved these changes.
Robin Clement motioned to approve the proposal. Huaxin Lin seconded the motion, and the Council approved.

**Education Leadership and Policy – Revision**

This proposal was discussed in a previous meeting, but could not be voted on due to several courses still undergoing the regularization process, which has since been completed.

Robin Clement motioned to approve the proposal. Huaxin Lin seconded the motion, and the Council approved.

**Economics – New Accelerated Master’s Program**

Professor Jeremy Piger offered an overview of this proposal to the Graduate Council. He explained that through the Accelerated Master’s Program in Economics, undergraduate students would be allowed to take electives from selected courses that are cross listed at both the 400 and 500 level, preventing them from taking the same course as master’s student. Previously, some students would take 500 level electives and then reserve the credit until they were in the master’s program. However, the AMP allows up to 12 credits of graduate level coursework to transfer when they apply to become a master’s student, making it easier for them to complete their master’s in 1 year. This model makes obtaining a master’s degree much more doable than the traditional 4+1 model, and is very common across peer institutions making it highly competitive.

When asked about the final project as a master’s student, Jeremy explained that there are two tracks the student can choose from. The first being a coursework track that requires the student to complete 48 credits through coursework. In this track, some of the required courses involve a series of projects that students build into a portfolio to be presented on a networking platform, which allows for a project theme within the coursework track. The other is the thesis track where students do less coursework and write a thesis. The thesis track has actually been unpopular among students because the professional careers they seek require certain skills that are learned in coursework.

Robin Clement motioned to approve the proposal. Huaxin Lin seconded the motion, and the Council approved.

**Spanish – New PhD Program**

Professor Fabienne Moore provided the Graduate Council with a general overview of this proposal which has been in the works for 6 years. She explained that the Spanish PhD focuses on Spanish as a second language and also allows students to do coursework and dissertation work on Spanish tradition and culture. This program (as well as the newly revised Romance Languages PhD) will accept students with a Bachelor’s degree as opposed to only students with a Master’s, meaning that there will be more diverse curriculum that caters to students of varying ability. The Romance Languages PhD has also been revised to be better aligned with the addition of the Spanish PhD.

Spanish Professor Cecilia Enjuto, who played a key role in developing this proposal, joined the meeting to answer any questions and offer further clarification if needed. When asked about providing Spanish as a specialization rather than a PhD, Cecilia explained that there already are a number of students specializing in Spanish, but that there is strong interest in a PhD which is more common across institutions and more desirable for employers than a PhD in Romance Languages. Current students in the Romance Languages program may even opt to change their degree to Spanish once this proposal passes.

Professor Beth Harn pointed out that the proposal mentions the program’s improvement of the K-12 education system, but that there is no coursework related to education listed. Beth also found it odd that there are credit courses devoted to comprehensive exam and prospectus preparation, believing that if those credits were not required, it would open up the opportunity for students obtain teaching credentials simultaneously. Cecilia stated that she is in favor of collaborating with the College of Education to create
more connection with BA students, but does not wish to remove the preparation courses. She is willing, however, to update the language in the professional development experience part of the proposal so that it encourages students to achieve specializations, take courses outside of Romance Languages, and obtain teaching credentials. She also added that the comprehensive exams are framed to allow students to build and present their research and use it as the introduction and first chapter of their dissertation, which is why those courses are of high importance. Jered mentioned that allowing these types of preparation courses for credit is fairly common because students have completed their coursework and need to be registered for courses.

Cecilia departed the meeting. The Graduate Council still had some remaining concerns that they wish to clarify before voting on this proposal. Robin will compile the various questions, particularly in regard to the issue of comprehensive exam and prospectus preparation courses, and also the issue of having such a high number of required courses outside of the Romance Languages department, which Professor Dorothee Ostmeier pointed out.

The Graduate Council adjourned at 5:05PM.

**Holdover Items:**

Romance Languages – Revision

*Discussion and Vote*

*Note: this proposal is being put forth in conjunction with the new PhD program in Spanish to align the existing RL program with the new SPAN program.*

Preferred names on theses and dissertations – proposed policy

*Discussion and vote*

Respectfully submitted,

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Fabienne Moore
Graduate Council Secretary