MINUTES
The Graduate Council
March 20, 2019
Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

Members Present: Burke Hendrix, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Seth Lewis, Fabienne Moore, Jeremy Piger, Jana Prikryl (ex officio), Nicholas Proudfoot, Leslie Straka, Hailin Wang, and Angie Whalen

Members Absent: Adell Amos, Lara Bovilsky, Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Elim Hernandez Santos, Alison Kwok, Celeste Mena Morales, Phil Scher (ex officio), Janet Woodruff-Borden (ex officio), and Mark Watson (ex officio) and Hong Yuan

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Jered Nagel, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm.

The January and February 2019 minutes were approved as distributed.

New Business

New PhD Program in Planning and Public Affairs

Professor Proudfoot noted that in the External Review for the proposed PhD the reviewers stated that the current plan is to enroll doctoral students in master’s level courses and have faculty supplement the experience. The reviewers stated that while a relatively standard practice, this will impose significant demands on the faculty, who are essentially expected to teach two courses for the price of one. Additionally it denies PhD students the opportunity for a seminar experience.

Senior Instructor Prikryl stated that any significant modifications of courses would need to go through the Committee on Courses to have them regularized.

Professor Proudfoot stated that there doesn’t seem to be much development of PhD seminars in the proposal.

Professor Piger noted that the class size is projected to be only three students per year.

Associate Professor Moore said that this looked like a great initiative, but she would like clarification about how doctoral students would have a different experience than the master’s students. Associate Professor Moore would also like to see a timeline for PhD students; i.e. when they should take methods courses, what can they expect for a timeline, etc. Also, she asked who supervises PPPM 604 Internship: Applied Research and how credits will be applied.

Richard Margerum, Professor and Department Head, and Rocco Luiere, Associate Dean, from the College of Design joined the Graduate Council Meeting to discuss the proposal and answer Graduate Council members’ questions.

Professor Proudfoot asked about the questions brought up in the External Review regarding delivery of PhD level coursework. The current plan is to enroll doctoral students in master’s level course and have faculty supplement the experience. The reviewers though this would impose significant demands on faculty, who are essentially expected to teach two courses for the price of one. Professor Proudfoot asked if doctoral students wouldn’t do better having their own seminars.
Professor Margerum stated that the College of Design is developing graduate level courses with new faculty. There will be research groups where doctoral students will have their main intellectual home.

Professor Proudfoot asked if there will be undergraduates in the classes with doctoral students. Professor Margerum stated that in many of the elective courses there may be doctoral students taking classes with undergraduate students, but the 600 level classes are for graduate students only.

Professor Proudfoot asked about the three tracks and having three new PhD students per year. Professor Margerum said the proposal anticipates that funding will be available for three new PhD students per year, beginning in 2019, until an ongoing funding level of 15 students is reached in 2023. There will be a community to plug into, and many students may overlap in their research groups.

Associated Professor Hendrix asked if it would be better to have a cohort of six students every other year instead of three students per year. Professor Margerum said that was a strategy they could look at.

Professor Wang asked how many master’s students were in the program, and Professor Margerum replied that there were approximately 120 master’s students.

Associate Professor Moore suggested that a PhD timeline might be helpful to have that listed the time and order of methods courses. Professor Margerum said that they have been working on this.

Associate Professor Moore than asked about PPM 604: Internship: Applied Research (1-10 Credits). Who provides the internships, how do students find them, and how are credits applied? Professor Margerum replied that the College has partnerships with agencies and local government. For a specific project, the student may be imbedded at the agency. Assistant Dean Nagel added that usually credits are based on how many hours the student works, and Professor Margerum agreed.

The guests then left the Graduate Council meeting.

Associate Dean Stratka noted that if the College of Design is relying on other departments when students have comprehensive exams, students may find it difficult to form committees because of an unwillingness of partners across campus to be part of that process.

Associate Professor Lewis suggested that the College begin the process to build strong relationships with other departments and cast the widest possible net among Directors of Graduate Studies and Program Heads to make connections going outside what is listed in the proposal.

Associate Professor Lewis moved to approve the New PhD Program in Planning and Public Affairs. Associate Professor Whalen seconded the motion. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the New PhD Program in Planning and Public Affairs.

New Graduate School Policies

Proposed Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Assistant Dean Nagel noted that the Appeals section of this policy now provides that the appeal of a disqualification will be reviewed by the Graduate Council grievance committee, who will make a recommendation to the Provost.

Associate Professor Whalen said that the wording of who the disqualification recommendation to the Graduate School may come from is broad enough to fit many departmental situations which are varied among campus.
Associate Professor Moore asked about departmental advising and notification of academic process found in the proposed policy. Assistant Dean Nagel said that the plan is to make it a simple process for departments—maybe something like checking a box "yes" or "no."

The Graduate Council voted unanimously to recommend to the Graduate School adopting the proposed Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

**Proposed MA Foreign Language Policy**

Assistant Dean Nagel explained that under the current policy the M.A. degree requires second year level of proficiency in a second language as required for the B.A. degree. Language competence must be demonstrated within the overall seven-year limit for completion of a master's degree.

The Graduate School receives petitions asking for classes to be counted even though they are outside the seven-year limit, and the Graduate School follows the departments' recommendations.

The proposed policy would have the level of proficiency and method of determining proficiency be determined by each graduate program.

Associate Professor Moore suggested using language that is more neutral rather than "foreign language," such as Language Other Than English. She also asked the reason for the policy change. Assistant Dean Nagel said that the current policy requires Graduate School staff to try to enforce an arbitrary level of proficiency. Graduate programs are in the best position to determine what language requirements are required in order to enhance and complement their student's graduate coursework and research.

The Graduate Council adjourned at 5:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nicholas Proudfoot
Graduate Council Secretary