MINUTES
The Graduate Council
May 15, 2019
Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

Members Present: Adell Amos, Lara Bovisky, Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Burke Hendrix, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Alison Kwok, Celeste Mena Morales, Fabienne Moore, Jeremy Piger, Jana Prikryl (ex officio), Nicholas Proudfoot, Leslie Straka, Angie Whalen, Janet Woodruff-Borden (ex officio), and Hong Yuan

Members Absent: Elim Hernandez Santos, Seth Lewis, Phil Scher (ex officio), Hailin Wang, and Mark Watson (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Jered Nagel, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

New Business

New Specialization – Environmental Conflicts

Professor Proudfoot commented that rotating the department who administers the Specialization each year seems to be not as effective as having a longer term such as three years before handing it off to another department.

Associate Professor Bovisky asked if certain classes might be oversubscribed.

Guests Associate Professor Liz Tippett, and Associate Professor Erik Girvan from the Law School joined the Graduate Council meeting to discuss the proposal and answer Council members’ questions.

Professor Proudfoot asked about having a different department administer the specialization each year. Associate Professor Tippett replied that procedures have been developed for how to implement the specialization, so the handoff to a new department should go smoothly. Associate Professor Girvan added that the rotation ensures that the specialization will not be owned by one group. He also noted that the language is equivocal about when administration will transfer. The proposal states, “Admissions to the graduate specialization and permission for completion will be administered by the Law School for the first year of the program. Thereafter, administration will rotate between departments based on enrollment and resource availability.”

Associate Professor Hendrix asked about the estimated number of students who will take the specialization each year. Associate Professor Tippett said probably less than 12 students per year, but that is just an estimation.

Lara noted that the Registrar’s Office may prefer to have this listed as three specializations for the purpose of noting it on students’ transcripts. Associate Professor Girvan said that this would not be a problem, as originally it was designed to be three specializations.

The guests then left the Graduate Council meeting.

After a brief discussion, the Graduate Council voted to approve the proposal as three separate specializations and instructed that the following language be used on the issue of differing requirements:

"Any department/unit can impose on its own graduate students restrictions on which courses from the list
can fulfill the specializations' requirements" and to remove the two sentences at the end of the Procedure & administration section of the proposal.

Professor Proudfoot moved to approve the proposal with the above instructions. Associate Professor Hendrix seconded the motion. The motion passed with Associate Dean Amos abstaining.

Discussion of Accelerated Master's Programs

Associate Dean Karduna reported that Dean Woodruff-Borden recently held a Deans' Summit on Master's Programs. Associate Dean Karduna and Assistant Dean Nagel have been tasked with developing a structure that would allow departments to develop an accelerated Master's program by combining bachelor's and Master's degrees. This structure would come before the Graduate Council next fall to approve.

Associate Professor Bovilsky stated that the accelerated Master's programs would be good for students as it saves them money. Professor Piger also liked the idea, noting that currently students have to take electives they don't want to take. In an accelerated Master's program, students could focus on classes they want to take.

Dean Woodruff-Borden explained that not all departments may want to have an accelerated Master's program. As the UO shifts to adding more doctoral students, there will be fewer GE positions for Master's students. Having the accelerated Master's degrees is also a good recruitment tool, and there are multiple interests that would be served. The goal is that if a department wants to implement an accelerated Master's program, we can provide them a template to guide them through the process.

Add/Drop Policy

Vice Provost Bramhall reported that there has been discussion to change the add/drop policy for classes.

After discussion by the Graduate Council, Professor Proudfoot moved to recommend moving the "last day to add a class" from the Sunday prior to week two at 11:59pm to Monday of week two at 11:59pm. Associate Professor Whalen seconded the motion. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to recommend moving the "last day to add a class" from the Sunday prior to week two at 11:59pm to Monday of week two at 11:59pm.

The Graduate Council adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Proudfoot
Graduate Council Secretary