MINUTES
The Graduate Council
April 15th, 2020
Remote Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Autumn Shafer, Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Dane Christensen, Robin Clement, Ihab Elzeyadi, Marina Guenza, Burke Hendrix, Rachael Klaiss, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Huaxin Lin, Kate Mondloch (ex officio), Fabienne Moore, Dorothee Ostmeier, Elizabeth Peterson (ex officio), Julia Pomerenk (ex officio), Leslie Straka, Angie Whalen, and Frances White (ex officio)

Members Absent: Michael Fakhri, Aidan Kolar, Jeremy Piger, Phil Scher (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm. The March, 2020 minutes were approved as distributed.

Inactivation of DMA in Music Composition

Professor Leslie Straka began discussion by explaining that the only difference between the DMA and PhD degrees in Music Composition was the choice of supporting area. Since supporting areas in doctoral programs were previously removed so there is no reason to offer a DMA.

Professor Dorothee Ostmeier motioned to approve the inactivation of DMA in Music Composition. Professor Fabienne Moore seconded the motion and the Council were all in agreement.

Inactivation of MA in Computer and Information Science

The Council had individually reviewed the proposal and there were no comments for discussion. Professor Ostmeier motioned to approved the inactivation of MA in Computer and Information Science. Professor Marina Guenza seconded the motion and the Council were all in agreement.

Discussion on Realignment of Course Requirements in Architecture

The Council could not vote on this proposal today because a correction is needed before it can be considered. 601 is an unregularized, generic course, but is listed as required in the proposal which is against UOCC policy. Professor Frances White states that this course should be removed from the list of required courses and noted as a generic course.

Professor Ihab Elzeyadi, representing the Architecture department, agrees that the 601 course should be removed from the required list, and notes that even though it is not a required course, it is highly recommended for students within the program. He continues to elaborate on a few other changes within the proposal, such as the merging of Theory of Sustainable Architecture (617) with History of Sustainable Architecture (633), and that in doing so, the required credits for these types of courses drops from 24 to 20. The proposal also calls for the removal of a teaching requirement since most PhD students are also GEs and already engaged in teaching activities. Professor Elzeyadi also mentioned that the proposal now lists the 656 course as an elective, and that required elective credits were reduced from 16 to 12.

New Online Emphasis Within Existing Psychology MS Program

Before inviting Anne Mannering and Lisa May from the Center for Translational Neuroscience into the meeting, Associate Dean Andy Karduna asked the Council if there was anything they wanted to discuss regarding this proposal. Professor Robin Clement requested clarification on whether or not this is a new
degree, or a track within the existing Master’s program. Associate Vice Provost Ron Bramhall explained that existing courses within the program are being rewritten into an online format, but the degree is the same. He also mentioned that this program will require approval by a regional accreditor as well as HECC since it is the third of the first three online programs at UO and must go through a specific approval process.

Anne and Lisa both joined the meeting and provided a general overview of the proposal. They explained that the goal of this program is to provide a resource to those already working in the field who want to obtain a Master’s degree and take on more supervisory roles within their community based organization. They would be able to achieve a higher level of knowledge in the area while simultaneously getting hands on experience through their research.

Professor Ostmeier asked if students are required to own certain computer hardware, or if the University will provide it. Anne confirmed that students would need access to a computer with a webcam, and that there are resources within the University where a student could obtain these items if needed.

Professor Burke Hendrix questioned what changes will the shift to an online structure consist of, given that the proposal states it will be asynchronous versions of preexisting courses. Anne informed him that she has been working with the UO online program on how to effectively adapt face-to-face courses into an online format. Most of the course content will overlap but would involve different forms of presentation, such as recorded lectures, interactive discussions, etc. Burke followed up by asking if she had consulted with any potential program participants about their needs, and wants to know how she plans on building the program with that in mind. Anne confirmed that she has conducted needs assessment surveys with several people from various organizations and they all believed this to be a valuable program. They particularly liked the neuroscience connection and are interested in learning about more tools and resources they can use. Therefore, the courses have been developed with an applied focus in mind.

Professor Clement asked how the program will identify students for this, and whether or not a hybrid model could be possible. Anne responded by stating that in addition to developing content, they are also working on recruitment. They have published a website that includes an inquiry page if anyone wants to learn more. They also performed budget calculations to determine what is required for the program to be sustainable, and found that the first cohort would need a minimum of 15 students, which they believe is doable. Anne doesn’t believe that a hybrid model is possible for the first cohort, but it is being considered for the future. They are also continuously looking for ways to make this program affordable, as well as improve access to scholarships.

Professor White pointed out that there were two courses in the proposal listed as electives that should actually be regularized since they have titles and a structure. The online courses must also go through the regularization process. She asked Anne and Lisa whether or not they have a timeline laid out for this, as well as a backup plan should any courses not be approved. Anne explained that they have developed a curriculum map that illustrates which courses they want to offer first, and which ones follow next in the sequence. Those first new courses are beginning to be regularized and are currently being reviewed by CAS. They understand that these as well as the online courses must also be reviewed by UOCC and are confident that will complete the regularization process successfully.

Anne and Lisa departed the meeting and the Council proceeded to vote on this proposal. Professor Ostmeier motioned to approve the proposal so long the department is aware of the following issues:

1. Access to needed technology, such as laptop, internet, webcam, etc.
2. Understanding that experimental courses and online courses must go through regularization process
3. Possibility of a hybrid model in the future
4. More overall clarity and detail about the online mission
5. Need for online advisor (not questioned previously)
Professor Elzeyadi seconded the motion, and the Council were all in agreement.

Links to UOCC regularization guidelines:


Discussion on Changes to Master's and PhD Programs in School Psychology

Professor Angie Whalen served as a representative for School Psychology regarding this proposal, and noted that the department is aware of regularization issues that need to be situated before the Council can issue approval. She states that department faculty are anxious to get this proposal passed and are open to feedback.

Professor Ostmeier believed that in this proposal, the emphasis on mental health was not strong enough especially since some courses on this topic were removed. She believes that now, more than ever, curriculum design should focus on mental health and families. Professor Whalen stated that those changes were in regard to one course called Child and Family Interventions, where the course would no longer be offered because they lost the faculty member who taught it. Instead of creating a new course, the program voted to allow students to choose from a list of other approved intervention courses. Since then, a new faculty member has been found to teach Child and Family Interventions, so the course will be offered regularly again and it will be included as one of the options. Rather than requiring students to take the one class, the proposal would allow them to take courses from a selection that are focused in the same area.

Professor Fabienne Moore asked how the elimination of Child and Family Interventions had affected current students in the program. Professor Whalen explained that the program had to offer individual course substitutions for each student that followed COE policy, and get them approved first through the college licensure office, and then through the state licensure office to ensure the students could graduate on time.

The Council could not vote on this proposal due to issues surrounding the regularization process.

Pass/No Pass Option for Graduate Courses

Prior to this Graduate Council meeting, Council members were asked to vote via email on a proposal that would allow programs to offer a Pass/No Pass grading option for all graduate courses. Based on a majority vote, this proposal had been approved. It had then proceeded onto Academic Council, which also approved the proposal.

Professor Moore followed up in the Council meeting on the status of this proposal since she did not see or hear an official announcement about whether or not it had passed. Associate Dean Karduna explained that an email of its approval went out to the DGS and Graduate Coordinator mailing lists. Several other council members explained that their departments had then taken that information and relayed it on to their faculty and students. Professor Moore was dissatisfied that these instructions for relaying the information were not clear.

Graduate Student Support During the COVID-19 Crisis

Professor Moore suggested that the Council spend some time discussing how graduate students are
coping with the current situation, as she is concerned about their well-being and the stress involved with learning and teaching remotely.

Professor Ostmeier noted that Interim Dean Kate Mondloch has been sending out letters to graduate students inviting them to voice any concerns and has offered them various resources for support. Associate Dean Karduna pointed out that he has been getting numerous emails, mainly department faculty asking for guidance on questions that are coming from students. The largest expressed concern deals with students who are struggling to make progress toward their degree due to hurdles such as labs being closed, research and travel opportunities being cancelled, and the uncertainty of funding. He stated that it is ultimately up to the department to make the necessary alterations to their programs while ensuring the same caliber of work is being completed that contributes to their academic advancement.

Professor Guenza had heard that the University is considering mandatory salary reductions, and wondered if this was going to affect GEs. Associate Dean Karduna assured her that throughout the various meetings with the GTFF, this was never a topic of discussion, but he will inquire about it.

Professor Autumn Shafer told the Council that she’s had a number of GEs express concern in losing their healthcare benefits through the summer since they have been laid off. This had been especially concerning for international GEs. She had also heard a rumor that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, some departments are redirecting some faculty summer travel/research funds to GE summer salaries. There unfortunately has been no word on how summer healthcare coverage will be affected, nor the notion of reallocating faculty funds to GE salaries.

Professor Ostmeier closed the Council meeting by expressing the need to devote time in the next meeting to further discuss the various changes that have been occurring due to the pandemic and how our graduate students are being affected.

The Council adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,