MINUTES
The Graduate Council
February 19th, 2020
Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

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

Members Absent: Ihab Elzeyadi, Jeremy Piger, Phil Scher (ex officio), Angie Whalen

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm. The January, 2020 minutes were approved as distributed.

Bioengineering – New PhD Program

Jim Hutchison and Nathan Jacobs from the Knight Campus were in attendance to further promote their proposal for the new Bioengineering PhD, and clarify any uncertainties. Nathan began by stating that the ultimate goal of this program is to establish a nationally renowned graduate Bioengineering program and to achieve recognition in the field by utilizing a partnership with OSU. The current main focus is to provide the recently hired faculty with the most promising grad students. The program is currently on track to launch by fall 2020 so that student recruitment can begin. Jim mentioned that there is a plan to have a joint admissions committee, and that admissions caps will be based on the faculty and research lab capacity to support students within the PhD program.

Nathan went on to further explain that there is high demand for this type of program and strong job growth nationally and locally. The program contributes to the improvement of medicine, humanities, and other objectives that align with the Knight Campus vision.

There are several benefits of this program being joint with OSU. UO students will be able to take advantage of the College of Engineering at OSU, and OSU students can utilize the new Knight Campus facilities. Also, students will be able to take classes from a broader selection of courses taught by faculty with a range of expertise. This also allows for more extensive collaboration and networking opportunities during and after the program.

Currently, while there is a high need for it, there is no clear process for taking an existing program and molding it into a joint program. Establishing clear procedures would help minimize associated complexities for students who enroll, and help them navigate difficult aspects of a joint program. Discussions are being held with multiple administrative parties, as well as students in similar programs at other institutions, in order to ensure an ideal student experience.

When students enroll in the program they choose a home campus based on their research interests and ideal advisor. The home campus would manage them as a student, but they would still have complete access to courses, facilities, and resources offered by both campuses. By the end of the first year, students may choose to switch to the other campus. In their second year and beyond, students who are preparing their dissertation proposal may switch campuses again if they choose, but must petition to do so.

Some other components that are currently in the finalization stages include the Provost Office conferring with HECC to determine if an external review is needed, an MOU between UO and OSU being completed, and course proposals placed under reviewed for approval.
Elizabeth Peterson of the UO Libraries wondered how students will have access to library data that is assigned to each campus. She also commented that the library document referenced in the proposal is 5 years old and that the research literature review requirements outlined are out of date. She states that there have been a lot of cuts in the past 5 years especially in Bioengineering, so they may want to consider making updates. Nathan confirmed that he will request additional details and make any changes accordingly.

Professor Fabienne Moore questioned why they are requesting a State exemption for external review. Jim explained that they are asking for guidance from the State since these types of programs already exist within other institutions, and HECC would essentially be adding another location that offers this degree.

Assuming the program is able to finalize the pending components (external review waiver, UO/OSU MOU, course proposals), the plan is for the vote for this proposal to take place at the March Graduate Council Meeting.

**Chemistry – Electrochemical Technology Track**

Professor Dorothee Ostmeier confirmed that CAS CC has approved this proposal, and Professor Frances White informed the committee that UOCC has approved of the updates made to the proposal. Professor White went on further to explain that the courses are still in the process of being approved, but Shannon Boettcher has been very compliant in making sure all the requirements are met. Understanding that approval must be granted before courses can be taught, the council proceeded with the voting process.

Professor Ostmeier motioned to approve this proposal. Professor Marina Guenza seconded the motion, and the council were all in favor.

**East Asian Languages and Literature MA – Required Credit Reduction and Add Additional Track**

The Council invited Professor Maram Epstein from the East Asian Languages and Literature Department into the meeting to explain the proposal in more detail and answer any questions. This proposal includes changes to the following tracks: Linguistics and Pedagogy, Chinese Studies, Korean Studies, and Japanese Studies.

Professor Ostmeier requested clarity and further explanation of the revised papers requirement. Professor Epstein explained that the papers are used as part of a comprehensive exam for the PhD degree. Students spend the term revising two term papers to form an extensive research paper using primary sources that are written in the target language. Historically, the MA degree has been taking 3 years for students to complete in large part because the thesis was taking too long to write. Allowing for the revised papers requirement, among other aspects that make this program more flexible, will help expedite the time to degree, and further prepare students for the PhD track they wish to enter.

She further went on to explain that the program is thought of as Terminal MA, and that funding is being reconfigured so that they can admit students who have BAs and fund them for 6 years of PhD training. If students in this MA program decide they want to go on to pursue a PhD, they can either do the thesis or the two papers requirement. CAS is advising the department to not fund MAs and to give priority to PhD students, therefore MAs would be self-funded so the need to expedite the degree is greater.

Professor Ostmeier also questioned why the two tracks have a different number of credits required. Professor Epstein explained that graduate courses are either 4 or 5 credits, and 9 classes are required in addition to the revised papers. A student who chooses the thesis option would have stronger BA preparation and therefore be allowed to take fewer courses to have time to write the thesis, therefore it is difficult to say how many credits a degree will be.

Professor Epstein departed from the meeting and the Council members had time to deliberate. The Council was in agreement, that the course requirements and credit hours described in the proposal are
vague. Professor White also mentioned that UOCC is still in the process of confirming that courses listed in the new proposal meet the requirements for approval. The Graduate Council decided that they will not vote on this proposal today, and will request revisions.

**School of Music and Dance – Interrelated Curricular Proposals**

Professor Leslie Straka, a Grad Council member in attendance who also helped formulate this proposal offered explanation of the following changes:

1. Elimination of the required supporting areas in all PhD/DMA degree programs (#233)
2. Elimination of the Violin/Viola Pedagogy "option" for MM Violin and Viola students majoring in Music Performance (#232)
3. Proposal for a Graduate Specialization in Violin/Viola Pedagogy (#393)

She emphasizes that the department is aiming to become a center for violin/viola pedagogy by bringing in more renowned faculty to include a wider breadth of knowledge and eliminating the Suzuki pedagogy track. Students have expressed a great deal of enthusiasm toward this notion. Professor Straka further explained that the Violin/Viola Pedagogy option as well as the “supporting areas” were not transcriptable and should be eliminated. In its place the proposal introduces the Graduate Specialization, which will appear on transcripts. Current students taking the Pedagogy option are being allowed to finish the program, and those who are interested in the specialization have been advised to take additional courses required for it.

Professor Ostmeier voiced her preference for the Suzuki program because of its strong role in community outreach. However, Professor Straka confirmed that community requirements are still included, and even improved, in the new pedagogy specialization.

Professor Ostmeier motioned to approve all three parts of the proposal, Marina Guenza seconded the motion. The Council members were all in agreement and the changes were approved. Professor Straka did not participate in this vote.

**Additional Topics to be Held Over**

Interim Dean Kate Mondloch and Professor Ostmeier both expressed interest in using the Graduate Council meetings to brainstorm possibilities for improved graduate programs in 2020. Rather than always discussing proposals, the Council could consider what programs could be doing differently to improve the student experience.

Kate Mondloch also presented the idea of the Graduate School having a Faculty in Residence who would select a theme for areas they could improve within graduate education.

Lastly, Professor Ostmeier mentioned the need for clear guidelines, or a policy, from the Provost that describe the voting process and its timeline. It would also be beneficial to have an outline of the relationship between the varying schools and departments.

The Council adjourned at 5:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,