The Graduate Council
January 15th, 2020
Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

Members Present:  Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Dane Christensen, Robin Clement, Marina Guenza, Burke Hendrix, Rachael Klaiss, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Huaxin Lin, Fabienne Moore, Dorothee Ostmeier, Elizabeth Peterson (ex officio), Jeremy Piger, Leslie Straka, Angie Whalen, and Frances White (ex officio)

Members Absent: Ihab Elzeyadi, Michael Fakhri, Aidan Kolar, Kate Mondloch (ex officio), Julia Pomerenk (ex officio), Autumn Shafer, and Phil Scher (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm. The November 2019 minutes were approved as distributed.

Global Studies – Name Change

The Graduate Council received a proposal in which the Department of International Studies (soon to be Global Studies) seeks approval to change the name of the MA degree from “International Studies” to “Global Studies.” The Council did not see any major issues with the written proposal and move toward its approval, but expressed some minor points of concern as follows:

1. The lack of collaboration between departments in implementing this change
   - According to Associate Vice Provost, Ron Bramhall, the department name and subject codes have already been approved by a different process, but various faculty members within CAS were not even aware that this change was taking place

2. There is currently no written policy for name change procedures
   - The Council believes a name change policy should be constructed and submitted for approval by the Academic Council
   - Currently, name changes are managed by the Provost office by default

3. The name “Global Studies” could easily be confused as being associated with the “Global Studies Institute,” which is a completely different entity within the Division of Global Engagement

Professor Dorothee Ostmeier motioned to approve the name change from “International Studies” to “Global Studies,” but wants the department to be aware of the above 3 points.

The Council unanimously approved the proposal under those conditions.

Educational Data Science – New Specialization

The Graduate Council was presented with a proposal to approve Educational Data Science as a new Graduate specialization within the Department of Educational Methodology, Policy, and Leadership (EMPL). They welcomed into the meeting Gerald Tindal, Dept. Head of EMPL and Director of Behavioral Research and Teaching (BRT), and Daniel Anderson, Research Assistant Professor in BRT, to answer questions and clarify any concerns regarding this new specialization. The main points of discussion are as follows:

- The proposal repeatedly uses the language “Data Science” when referring to the title of the specialization, but the official name should be “Educational Data Science” to better fit the program description.
  - Tindal confirmed that this change was made in the final proposal which was approved by the four faculties involved, and submitted to the Provost Office.
• The Graduate Council questioned the application process and whether or not the specialization is open to everyone, or if it must attach to a Master’s program.
  o Both Tindal and Anderson confirmed that there is no specific application process, and that any Graduate student with an interest may register to take courses to complete the specialization.
• Humanities Librarian, Elizabeth Peterson, asked about library involvement such as providing subscriptions, data sets, or statistical analysis tools
  o The Data Science representatives do not anticipate the need for any library involvement since most faculty already have their own arrangements for acquiring data. The program focuses on the use of open source software and textbooks which are found online for free. Public reports will also be used as much as possible.
• Professor Marina Guenza asked why R is used rather than Python in terms of programming language. She worries that more students are already familiar with Python and using R may deter them from pursuing the specialization.
  o Anderson explained that R was chosen simply as a personal preference and because he believes it more easily teaches basic programming knowledge to those who have little to no programming experience. It is the goal of this specialization to get students fluent in R before they branch out to other languages if they choose. He also mentioned the presence of support groups around campus that can be of assistance.
• Professor Fabienne Moore and Assistant Dean Jered Nagel both questioned the 4-credit independent research project and if that overlaps with the Master’s project.
  o Anderson confirmed that the research project is an applied capstone and ties in with the Master’s project. For PhD students, the credits would be fulfilled by conducting a research project that includes the development of visual software, or a traditional report that presents their findings.

The Graduate Council unanimously voted to approve the new specialization, but require the following points to be addressed in the final proposal:
1. Consistent language in using name “Educational Data Science”
2. The final project requirement for PhDs and outside students’ needs more explanation
3. The program must have a faculty advisor or coordinator in place

The council approved this specialization proposal under the condition that the comments above are noted.

Chemistry—Electrochemical Science and Technology Track

Following the same Q&A format, Chemistry representatives Mark Lonergan and Shannon Boettcher attended the Grad Council meeting to discuss any concerns regarding the new Electrochemical Science and Technology Track that has been submitted for approval.
• Graduate Teaching Fellow Rachael Klaiss requested further explanation on the timeline in which students will be placed in internships and what that process would look like
  o Boettcher stated that the track would start in the fall, and internships in the spring. Following the completion of the track, there will be an annual conference where students can network with industry leaders and participate in interviews and technical talks to showcase their research. A dedicated track manager will work to match students with companies according to their interests and skills. The students then participate in a 9-month internship then receive their degree.
• Associate Professor Burke Hendrix wants to know whether or not it is manageable to start this track in the fall, and would like to know what is being to make sure it can start on time. He would also like input on which companies they are hoping to gain as key partners.
  o Boettcher explained that he has been actively planning this track for several years. He has recently met with key executives at Argonne National Labs, who are currently operating the largest battery hub research initiative in the country, and they have expressed excitement toward this program and are eager to hire UO interns as employees. He also confirmed that courses and syllabi are written, and that that there has been expressed interest from various universities and other industries.
On the other hand, Longeran noted that a few outstanding aspects including course and course code approval, student recruitment, and hire of a track director
Boettcher is still making connections with various industries to determine who will be strong partners. Besides Argonne, other anticipated partners include Tesla, Microsoft, Apple, Johnson Controls, LG Chem, and even smaller companies based locally and around Oregon. They intend to begin this track with only a small number of students to establish a relationship. It is the goal to teach students in a way that these companies will want to hire them upon graduation, these companies will even participate in curriculum design to meet the companies’ needs.

- Professor Francis White, who serves on the UOCC has voiced concern that some course numbers in the proposal are listed incorrectly, and that some descriptions need clarification on what requirement is being fulfilled. Many of these issues would have been caught by CAS CC review, but that step was skipped.
- The Grad Council agrees that this proposal needs a better description of what will be expected of the students and a clear sense of what courses they will be taking.
  - It was noted by Marina Guenza that this track is similar to the Knight Campus Internship Program, in that it is starting with minimal guidelines and is expected to develop over the years.

The Graduate Council could not yet approve the Electrochemical Science and Technology Track as there are still matters that need to be worked out in the finalization process. The main points that must be addressed are:
  1) Incorrect course codes and updated descriptions
  2) CAS CC approval required
  3) Creation of a track outline that follows their own model rather than the KCIP

The Council adjourned at 5:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,