MINUTES
The Graduate Council
October 16, 2019
Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

Members Present: Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Dane Christensen, Robin Clement, Ihab Elzeyadi, Burke Hendrix, Andy Karduna (ex officio), Rachael Klaiss, Aidan Kolar, Hauxin Lin, Fabienne Moore, Dorothee Ostmeier, Elizabeth Peterson (ex officio), Jeremy Piger, Autumn Shafer, Leslie Straka, Angie Whalen, and Frances White (ex officio)

Members Absent: Michael Fakhri, Marina Guenza, Phil Scher (ex officio), and Janet Woodruff-Borden (ex officio)

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Tara Kaiser, Jered Nagel

The meeting was called to order at 3:31pm. The meeting opened with introductions of those in attendance. The September 2019 minutes were approved as distributed.

Continued Discussion of Accelerated Master's Programs

Associate Dean Karduna began the meeting by reiterating the purpose of the proposal for an accelerated Master’s program in that it creates a structure for individual programs to apply to using a single form. The council in general expressed favor in the program but not without voicing several concerns and proposing several amendments.

The council discussed whether or not 16 credits maximum is fair amount to be allowed as shared credits toward both an undergraduate and Master’s degree. Professor Dorothee Ostmeier suggested using a maximum percentage rather than number of units due to different departments/degrees having different minimum required units. A program may, however, choose to translate that percentage into a number of credits. How these shared credits will be noted on undergrad and graduate transcripts is to be discussed with the Registrar.

It was recognized that some departments currently have a program similar to the proposed AMP already in place. Associate Dean Karduna suggested that the AMP proposal form be amended to contain three options that a program can choose from in formulating their guidelines: 1) use existing bachelor’s and master’s programs, 2) use existing bachelor’s and master’s programs, but with changes to one of the programs, 3) create a new bachelor’s and/or master’s program. Option 1 would not require a formal approval because no changes are made. Option 2 would require more extensive curriculum review for approval. Option 3 must follow the standard procedure for implementing a new program/degree before being approved.

Associate Professor Burke Hendrix brought up the point that the proposal does not have set requirements that students would have to meet to be accepted into the program. Currently, any junior or senior can apply and is it up to the department to approve the application. He and several other council members voiced concern that this may create a bias where inside applicants may be more likely to be selected since they are already on track to join the program. Outside applicants (non-traditional or international students) may be less likely to be accepted.

Amendments to Accelerated Master’s Program Proposal Form

In a unanimous vote, the graduate council motioned to approve the following amendments to the Accelerated Master’s Program proposal form:

...
The decided upon upper limit of shared credit allowed is 16 credits for the Master's degree.
The proposal must include a statement of inclusivity.
The proposal must contain a change policy warning stating that a different procedure must be followed if changes to the program wish to be made.
The proposal must contain admission standards.

It was also decided to consider other possible amendments to the Accelerated Master's Program which would be discussed in a future meeting. Such topics include the motion to reduce the number of credits required for a Master's degree for those student’s accepted in the AMP, which would require involvement from the registrar's office in altering the language of transcripts to show shared undergrad/graduate credit. Associate Professor Fabienne Moore also presented the idea that certain shared credit be allowed to continue on into the Doctoral program.

**Agenda Topics to Be Held Over**

Associate Dean Andy Karduna explained that Graduate Faculty are currently able to serve as chairs or on dissertation committees without meeting any formal criteria and is strictly tenure based. Additionally, only some NTTF faculty are not eligible to serve on graduate committees under the current guidelines. He questions whether or not we should implement a policy where Graduate Faculty must meet certain criteria to be appointed and not strictly be based on tenure. There is also no policy to remove an individual from a Graduate Faculty position should his/her academic performance decline.

It was determined by the council that the term “Graduate Faculty” is not clearly defined, and that it should be if we move forward in making changes. The council also expressed that this decision may not be entirely up to the Graduate School, but should involve other bodies in reaching a decision on any new policies.

The Council adjourned at 5:02pm.

**Accelerated Master's Program Update**

After being voted on by the Graduate Council, the proposal for an Accelerated Masters Program was discussed by the Undergraduate Council on November 20th, 2019. The Undergraduate Council asked for some revisions before voting on it. Jered Nagel made those changes to the proposal and sent it off to Jana Prikryl (chair of Undergrad Council).

Dorothee Ostmeier and Andy Karduna agreed to have the Graduate Council submit a follow-up vote on these changes. The documents were dispersed to the Graduate Council via email on December 9th, 2019, and votes were returned via email by December 13th, 2019.

15 votes were received in approval of the changes, and the program awaits a final review by the Senate which will take place in January, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,