MINUTES
The Graduate Council
March 21, 2018
Graduate School Student Lounge, 111 Susan Campbell Hall

Members Present:  Lara Bovilsky, Shanka Chakraborty, Sierra Dawson (ex officio), Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Stephen Frost, Erik Girvan, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Cameron Kay, Alison Kwok, Jana Prikryl (ex officio), Nicholas Proudfoot, Aleesa Schlientz, and Angie Whalen

Members Absent: Andy Karduna (ex officio), Seth Lewis, Phil Scher (ex officio), Leslie Straka, Hailan Wang, and Hong Yuan

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Marcia Walker

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

Old Business

None

New Business

Elimination of the Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (REEES) Graduate Concentration in Slavic Linguistics (Dean Recommended Item)

Associate Professor Bovilsky moved to approve the elimination of the REES Graduate Concentration in Slavic Linguistics. Professor Chakraborty seconded the motion. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the elimination of the REES Graduate Concentration in Slavic Linguistics.

Change in PhD Program in Educational Methodology, Policy and Leadership (EMPL)

Graduate Council member discussed the EMPL proposal to change the PhD program. Associate Professor Bovilsky asked about the proposal’s statement that EMPL will reduce course credits from 4 to 3 credits to streamline the curriculum. Clinical Associate Professor Whalen noted that this happens frequently in the College of Education in both adding and reducing course credits.

Graduate Student Schlientz noted that some courses in the program are offered every three years and asked if this would be a problem for students in the program.

Gina Biancarosa, Associate Professor & Swindells Chair, from EMPL joined the Graduate Council meeting to discuss the proposal.

Associate Professor Bovilsky as if there was a move to make sure there is less content in the courses that are changed from 4 credits to 3 credits. Associate Professor Biancarosa responded that a lot of thought went into the process to be sure the content of the courses would be reduced corresponding to the reduction of credits.

Graduate Student Schlientz asked how long it would take for students to complete the program. Associate Professor Biancarosa stated that the average time to degree is five years. Graduate Student Schlientz then asked if courses only being offered every three years would be a problem for students in the program. Associate Professor Biancarosa responded that there are three years of coursework that
need to be taken before students can advance, and that across the College of Education, the College is trying to reduce redundancies in courses.

Associate Professor Bovilsky asked how many transfer credits are allowed. Associate Professor Biancarosa responded that the number is 21 credits. Associate Professor Bovilsky inquired about what fields most students go into with this degree. Associate Professor Biancarosa stated that it was the field of academic research. She stated that students enroll in the program for the quantitative work because it enables them to answer a wide array of questions.

Interim Dean Hodges asked about the name change of the credential from “Educational Leadership” to “Quantitative Research Methods in Education.” Associate Professor Biancarosa reported that there was a lot of debate about the title of the degree. The idea is to draw students together with quantitative methods, then students could decide on a specialization.

Interim Dean Hodges asked if there was a concern that other departments would have room in their classes to accommodate students from this program. Associate Professor Biancarosa said that there would be only two to four students per year, so she did not anticipate this wouldn’t be a burden to others.

Interim Dean Hodges asked if the College of Education had approved this proposal, and Associate Professor Biancarosa answered in the affirmative.

Associate Professor Biancarosa then left the Graduate Council meeting.

Professor Kwok noted that this program requires students to participate in TEP modules as part of a course, and asked if this was relying on outsourcing. Interim Dean Hodges stated that programs can partner with TEP.

After further discussion, the Graduate Council asked to have the following advisory statements sent to EMPL:

1. Any new courses or changed courses will need to be submitted on Courseleaf so that the UO Committee on Courses (UOCC) can vet them.

2. The Council expressed some wariness of having TEP modules being a fundamental part of the pedagogy course, because TEP is undergoing changes, and the required module may no longer be offered.

3. The Council liked the increased advising that was part of the proposal and wanted to emphasize how important that advising is as the PhD program transitions from old to new.

4. There is one 610 course, on data analysis with R, listed among the possible “content emphasis courses,” that the Council noted should be regularized in the future (i.e., given a permanent course) if it is to be a regular part of the curriculum.

Associate Professor Bovilsky moved to approve the EMPL proposal to change the PhD program. Assistant Professor Girvan seconded the motion. The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the EMPL proposal to change the PhD program.

Proposed Academic Deadline Changes

Associate Vice Provost Ron Bramhall attended the Graduate Council meeting to discuss the proposed academic deadline changes. He noted that these changes would apply to both undergraduate and graduate students.
Associate Professor Frost questioned if the deadlines need to be the same for undergraduate and graduate students.

Associate Professor Bovilsky stated that it is quite common to have seminars that meet once a week, and that these seminars sometimes meet on Friday. She noted that it would be difficult for students to decide if they want to drop a course the first week.

Associate Professor Proudfoot said that he often assigned homework the first week, with the assignment due by Friday. Students are then able to assess if they can do the work and belong in the course. The change to drop a course to the first Thursday would make it more difficult to do this. Associate Vice Provost Bramhall commented that having prerequisites should deal with this problem.

Assistant Vice Provost Dawson noted that this policy affects both adding and dropping courses. She pointed out that it can be a problem for students to add a course and come in late, because those students are way behind in the coursework.

Associate Professor Frost commented that he would rather not have deadlines at all, and Associate Professor Bovilsky said that he saw problems in shortening the deadlines.

Associate Professor Proudfoot that a more realistic approach is to have the deadline to drop a class without a "W" appearing on the transcript to Sunday of week one.

The Graduate Council agreed to table this item. Associate Vice Provost Ron Bramhall will review the Council’s comments and provide feedback at a later date.

**Announcements**

Interim Dean Hodges noted that there are two Graduate Council meetings remaining this year, and they may have full agendas.

Interim Dean Hodges asked to be made aware of students who are accepting or declining awards offered through the Graduate School.

Graduate Forum will take place on Friday, May 11, 2018, and the student response has been high. Associate Dean Karduna will be recruiting for judges for this event, and Graduate Council members were asked to consider volunteering when asked. They were also encouraged to get others to attend, including people outside the UO—people the Graduate School would be happy to issue an invitation to.

The Council adjourned at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanka Chakraborty
Graduate Council Secretary