

**Graduate Academic Council
2005 – 2006**

Minutes of the Council meeting of March 3, 2006
Approved by the Council on March 24, 2006

In attendance: E. Redkey, F. Bolton (staff), G. Burke, J. Bartow (staff), L. Kranich, L.-A. McNutt, M. Pryse, M. Rodriguez (Chair), O. Ongiti, & S. Friedman

Guests: B. Carlson and C. Smith, School of Social Welfare

GAC members unable to attend: D. Byrd, S. Chinnam, S. Levine & S. Maloney

1. Minutes of the GAC meeting of 2/2/06 were considered and approved following one amendment (7-0-0).
2. Dean's Report – M. Pryse
 - Dean Pryse raised an issue of University business cards being available to graduate students, as they are at many institutions. There was general support for the notion from Council members. She will be checking with Graphics on the matter.
 - There will be no major changes to the campus student support awards allocation model for 2006-07. Time was too short to rush to implement changes for this upcoming year. Work continues on the matter with an eye toward future years.
3. Chair's Report – M. Rodriguez
 - No report for this meeting.
4. Committee on Curriculum & Instruction – S. Friedman

Prof. Friedman introduced the two reports from committee meetings of 2/14/06 & 2/28/06 (appended to the end of these minutes). She answered a few questions from Council members. Prof. Kranich expressed concern about alternate assessment tools as proposed in the Public Administration curriculum change. Prof. McNutt commented that sometime specialty (versus comprehensive) exams are more appropriate, given the program and its structure.

The Council voted to accept the two committee reports and in doing so approve the recommendations contained therein. The approval votes were as follows: 2/14/06 – 8-0-0; 2/28/06 – 7-1-0.

5. The Council considered and discussed a request from the Department of Sociology for an exception to policy to allow for an exceptional doctoral program applicant to enter the PhD Sociology program at the dissertation phase, transferring in all course work from prior study at Tulane University. Tulane has opted to do away with its program as a consequence of the devastating effects of hurricane Katrina. The student has engaged in prior research/publication work with one of our faculty who, it is proposed, will serve as her new dissertation director. In light of the severe circumstances, the Council voted to recommend approval of the exception to the Graduate Dean by a vote of 8-0-0.
6. Standards for Social Work Education

Professors Smith and Carlson from the School of Social Welfare introduced a revision to the prior "Standards" that had been approved by the faculty. The earlier approved version had been returned by the Senate and GAC for additional consideration. It was noted that all GAC recommended changes had been incorporated within the new version.

Discussion between the SSW guests and Council members focused on the dismissal appeals and the possible difference between undergraduate “process only” appeals to UAC versus “process or substance” appeals to GAC.

Prof. McNutt noted that undergraduate dismissal from a major allows a student to continue at the University, but that graduate level dismissal is program specific and would not allow for continuation.

Professors Smith and Carlson noted concerns about potential appeals based on professional Social Work standards being considered by faculty/staff who are not part of the Social Work profession.

Professor McNutt and Ms. Redkey commented that “in field” concerns of dismissed students are not something necessarily unique within the social work field. Other academic units/fields may have similar concerns about expertise to be applied in appeal considerations.

Dean Pryse noted that social work is different than many other academic field in that social workers are expected to be advocates.

The guests from Social Welfare indicated that while they and their faculty colleagues with the School would prefer that the proposal limit GAC to appeals to be on process grounds only, the School would accept the broader provision for GAC appeals in order to garner approval and/or support.

Jon Bartow pointed out that one earlier modification to the Standards having to do with the Social Welfare Dean recommending dismissal actions to the Graduate or Undergraduate Dean was missing from the revision. Council member concurred that a vote to approve would be contingent upon restoration of the modified language.

The Council voted not to approve the revised Standards with the limitation on GAC appeals to be “on process grounds only” 3-5-0.

The Council voted to approve the revised Standards with the words “or GAC” stricken from the appeal language limiting appeals to process grounds 5-3-0.

7. Future Spring 2006 GAC Meetings

The future GAC meeting schedule was set on an “as needed” basis to be (locations to be determined):

Friday, 3/24/06 at 2PM

Monday, 4/3/06 at 9AM

Friday, 4/28/06 at 2PM

May 06 – date and time to be determined.

END OF GAC 3/3/06 MINUTES

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Sally Friedman, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: February 14, 2006

Subject: Report and Recommendations

The CC&I met on February 14, 2006. In attendance were: S. Friedman, A. Pomerantz, J. Reynolds, B. Thiel, J. Bartow (staff) and F. Bolton (staff). D. Parker and G. Pogarsky were unable to attend.

Two items of business were considered.

1. College of Computing and Information – Request for program revisions to Ph.D. in Information Science program

Numerous revisions were proposed to the existing Ph.D. in Information Science program as the result of an extensive review made by the Informatics faculty of all its sub-fields and concentration offerings. Existing Ph.D. requirements for the fields were updated and several student self-designed specializations were elevated and recognized as new fields. Seven fields are now to be offered: Business Information and Decision Systems (BIDS); Decision and Policy Sciences (DAPS); Geographic Information Science (GIS); Information Assurance (IA); Information, Government, and Democratic Society (IGDS); Information in Organizational Environments (IOE); and Knowledge Organization and Management (KOM). The existing curriculum called for four full-semester core courses, each of which was four credits. The proposed new core consists of the following five quarter courses which are two credits each: Managing Information and Technology in Organizations, Information and Society, Information Organization, Information and Computing, and Information Policy. Four sequential one credit research core courses (Inf 711, 712, 713 and 714) as well as Inf 710, Research Design in Information Science for 4 credits were added as requirements. The previously required Part I Research paper is now to be presented in conjunction with the one-credit seminars and the Part II Research paper is to be integrated with the Field Comprehensive Examination requirements.

After a thorough dissection of the program revisions had been conducted, the Committee voted unanimously (4-0-0) to endorse the revisions suggested and move it forward to the GAC for further action and approval.

2. Department of Public Administration and Policy – Proposed Changes to the Ph.D. curriculum

One of the proposed changes to the Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy program called for the elimination of the written comprehensive examination that covered material from its six core courses. This change raised questions concerning the exam among the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction members and led to the decision to invite representatives of the Department to its next meeting for clarification.

The proposal was tabled until the next Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting to be held on February 28, 2006.

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To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Sally Friedman, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: February 28, 2006

Subject: Report and Recommendations

The CC&I met on February 28, 2006. In attendance were: S. Friedman, D. Parker, A. Pomerantz, B. Thiel, J. Bartow (staff) and F. Bolton (staff). G. Pogarsky and J. Reynolds were unable to attend.

Invited Guests: Professor R. Karl Rethemeyer and Professor George Richardson

One item of business was considered.

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy Department of Public Administration and Policy – Request for program revisions to Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy

Students in the Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy have been required to pass a comprehensive exam based on the program's six core courses. The program revision proposed to eliminate the comprehensive exam requirement and place greater emphasis on the student's GPA performance in these core courses.

The CC&I members expressed the opinion that the comprehensive exam typically enables a student to bring knowledge and skills learned from the core courses together to address a particular issue or topic relevant to the discipline. Professor Richardson was questioned concerning the loss of this assessment tool. Professor Richardson explained that the Department's comprehensive exam was comprised of six questions, one drawn from each of the six core courses. He stated that the development of an exam that would integrate the core areas would be difficult to craft and evaluate due to such a diverse faculty as Public Administration and Policy. Its use as a "weeding" tool for students was also ineffective, as the student was able to appeal and take the failed question(s) a second and third time. Professor Rethemeyer emphasized that the grade given in the core course was more indicative of the knowledge gained. He felt the proposed in-depth review of students by the six faculty members who teach the core courses and have knowledge of students would be a better assessment tool than the exam itself. The review would be a positive consulting experience for any student who may be seen to be in jeopardy of completing the Ph.D. program.

Also to be required of students would be registration for the Pad 881-884 series, Seminar on Doctoral Research and Professional Development, a two-year series of one-credit S/U courses. Students would also be required to make a presentation at least once within this series on a research topic of their choice.

After understanding the historical background of the comprehensive examination and the student assessment tools utilized by the Department of Public Administration and Policy, the proposal received a 4-0-0 vote of approval from the Committee.