

Graduate Academic Council 2008 – 2009

Minutes of the Council meeting of January 27, 2009
Approved by the Council on March 2, 2009.

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff), T. Clyman,
G. Denbeaux, S. Friedman, L. Kranich (Chair), J. McLaughlin,
W. Meredith, A. Pomerantz, M. Pryse, K. Reinhold, B. Shaw, C. Smith

Unable to attend: M. Earleywine

1. Minutes from 11/24/2008 were approved by unanimous vote.
2. Dean's Report – M. Pryse

Dean Pryse requested the Chair discuss Item #7 from the 11/24/2008 GAC minutes regarding the final outcome for the proposed charter amendment. She mentioned her attendance at a previous Governance Council meeting to discuss the UNI courses. She also noted the existence of GINS (General International Study) courses. Students receive either zero, 1-6, or 0-18 credits for these courses, all of which involve study abroad. The issue the Dean raised once again concerns the responsibility the GAC has for graduate education.

Dean Pryse also discussed the budget and acknowledged the need for final budget numbers by February. The delay in establishing the Graduate Student Support budget will otherwise affect new student. She indicated that she is pressing daily for resolution on the budget for '09-'10.

3. Chair's Report – L. Kranich

The Chair mentioned that the background explaining the charter amendment issue is contained in the 11/24/2008 minutes. At that meeting, he suggested deferring action until it can be determined whether SEC would approve the proposed amendment by GAC if graduate level UNI courses not housed within a school or college were required to carry zero credit. In the Chair's 12/15/2008 e-mail message, he informed the Council that the SEC voted to reject the proposal by GAC even with this modification. Instead, the prevailing sentiment was that ALL graduate courses that might appear on a transcript, including 0-credit courses, should be offered under the auspices of a school or college. The opinion, endorsed by even the student representatives present, was that academic credits or even transcript notes issued by a service unit diminished the merit, worth or stature of the degree. The Senate will vote on the Governance Council's proposed amendment at the 2/9/2009 meeting.

At the 11/11/2008 meeting, the issue was raised that the Committee memberships were not in compliance with the Senate Charter. Jon Bartow e-mailed Deans requesting nominees or volunteers. As of this date, Jon has received no replies to his inquiry.

The Chair reported that Vice Provost Bromley was informed that GAC voted to approve the recommendation of the Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure (CEPP) against establishing an equivalence scale between undergraduate and graduate credits and

in favor of maintaining the current policy that undergraduate credits are not acceptable for transfer into a graduate program and that they are not equivalent in any way.

The deactivation of the MS/MPH Bioethics/Public Health with Union College and the Albany Medical Center was approved by Council on 11/11/2008. Jon Bartow reported that he has received no further feedback from UPC. Both GAC and UPC must co-sponsor a bill to the Senate once UPC has reviewed and approved the deactivation.

The Interim President has signed the proposal for a Certificate of Graduate Studies in Health Disparities.

4. School of Education's Proposal to Discontinue the Graduate Certificate in Urban Education

Senate Chair Delano received letters of support from both the Acting Dean and the Assistant Dean for Professional Studies of the School of Education to discontinue the certificate. There are no resource implications, and no students are currently enrolled. The Council voted unanimously to support the discontinuation of the certificate. It is also necessary that the proposal be approved by UPC. It will then proceed as a joint bill to the full Senate.

5. Old Business

Committee on Educational Policy and Procedure

Chair Kranich mentioned to CEPP Chair Smith that at the SEC meeting yesterday the Chair of UAC requested that GAC proceed expeditiously on the matter of the revised billing policy for BA-MA students. CEPP will review the proposal at its next meeting.

Further Discussion of the Proposed Charter Amendment

Dean Pryse raised again for discussion the proposed charter amendment and questioned who should be in charge of graduate level UNI courses. She also questioned how the proposed Certificate in College Teaching had been described at the SEC meeting to enlist Grad student members' support for an amendment that would restrict their options. The Dean mentioned that ITLAL's only remaining option, should the amendment pass, would be to approach each college or school individually to enlist support for college-wide versions of the three proposed zero-credit ITLAL courses. She encouraged members of GAC to attend the upcoming Senate meeting if they are interested in participating in discussion on the amendment.

The Chair pointed out that since the Certificate in College Teaching would be an internal certificate program, there is nothing preventing ITLAL from offering the associated courses and issuing a certificate of completion without it being included on the transcript.

END OF GAC 1/27/2009 MINUTES

Attachment #1

TO: John Delano, University Senate Chair



FROM: Ruth L. Pagerey, Assistant Dean for Professional Studies

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of Urban Education Certificate of Graduate Studies Program

DATE: January 5, 2009

The School of Education proposes the discontinuance of the Urban Education program leading to a Certificate of Graduate Studies (CGS).

Regents Regulations for teacher preparation programs that went into effect in 2004 required an increased emphasis on urban education throughout all programs, as well as the re-registration of all programs leading to certification. These changes resulted in primary courses from the Urban Education program being removed as courses from newly registered programs were added. Therefore, there is no longer a need for this standalone certificate program with an urban education focus.

All students have either completed the program or passed the statutory timeframe for enrollment in the program as of August 2008. Therefore, the suggested discontinuance date will be August 30, 2008.

cc: Reed Hoyt, Chair, Planning & Policy Council
Laurence Kranich, Chair, Graduate Academic Council
Jon Bartow, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies
Robert L. Bangert-Drowns, Acting Dean, School of Education

Attachment #2

TO: John Delano, University Senate Chair
FROM: Robert Bangert-Drowns, Acting Dean
SUBJECT: Discontinuance of Urban Education Certificate of Graduate Studies Program
DATE: January 9, 2009

I approve the proposal from the School of Education to discontinue the Urban Education program leading to a Certificate of Graduate Studies (CGS). The proposal was formally reviewed and approved by the School's Academic Council. (See attached routing and approval form.) The intent of the Urban Education CGS, we believe, is currently better served by the integration of urban education issues throughout our degree programs. I am grateful to those who helped champion the Urban Education CGS in its initiation, and I believe it was the right approach for its time.

The elimination of the certificate program does not have resource implications for the School or the University. We have not admitted new students to the program in recent semesters, and we waited until all students completed the program or passed the statutory timeframe for completion before making this proposal.

cc: Jon Bartow, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies
Ruth Pagerey, Assistant Dean for Professional Studies, School of Education

Attachment #3

Attachment #3 is a pdf file for a signed approvals and notifications form and a justification for proposal form (proposal #2008-153).