

Members present: John Monfasani (Chair), Wayne Logan, Barbara Via, Maria Brown, Gregory Harper, Sanford Levine, Donald Byrd, Jeryl Mumpower

Member absent: Laterrian McBrewer

Guest: Jon Bartow (staff to the Council)

1. Minutes of the meeting of 3/30/00 were reviewed and approved without change.

2. Report of the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing

The Committee report of May 12, 2000 (appended below) was presented by the Committee Chair. The Council voted unanimously to approve the report and in doing so deny the petition from a student seeking exception to the doctoral continuous registration policy. In taking this action the Council additionally asked that a briefing be provided to the Vice President for Student Affairs regarding the petition, particularly the part based on potential accommodation of health services for students with disabling conditions.

3. Report of the Committee on Curriculum & Instruction

The Committee report of May 12, 2000 (appended below) from its meeting of April 27, 2000 was presented by the Committee Chair. The Council voted unanimously to approve the report and in doing so accept the recommendation to approve the four action items presented.

4. Report of the Committee on Educational Policy & Procedure

The Committee report of May 12, 2000 (appended below) from its meetings of April 25 and March 21, 2000 was presented by the Committee Chair. The Council voted unanimously to approve the report and in doing so accept the recommendation that policy regarding limits on non-degree study be freshly interpreted.

5. Petition of graduate student David Cady, School of Business

Mr. Cady's petition for extension of the masters degree statute of limitations arrived too late to be considered by the GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing. The Council was asked to consider it directly since it was the end of the year. In examining the petition, the Council found documentation received from the School of Business in support of the petition to be inadequate. Particularly lacking was any notation about the "currency" of older course work to be included in the program of study if the petition were approved and/or any evidence that Mr. Cady had remained current with the older course materials. The Council voted unanimously to table the item for additional input from the School – for consideration by the GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing in the fall.

6. Request by the School of Business to utilize alternate admission criteria for some applicants to the part-time MBA Zurich program.

Dean Richard Highfield presented a proposal to the Council regarding the specialized delivery of the part-time MBA program to individuals from Zurich, Switzerland. In essence, the proposal sought to recognize that students from other educational systems, while not always possessing a "highest" credential equivalent to a U.S. bachelors degree, may have a breadth of education appropriate for entry into a U.S. graduate management program (MBA). The UA School of Business proposes to use a faculty committee to specifically examine the preparation of such applicants to this "carve out" program. After significant discussion, the Council voted 6 – 1 to approve the request of the School of Business for a limited waiver of standard admission criteria.

7. Proposal to modify the curriculum of the M.A. Communication program

This proposal, previously tabled by the GAC Curriculum & Instruction Committee, arrived back to the GAC too late to be reviewed by the C & I Committee. The Council found the proposal to revise the curriculum core lacking sufficient discussion/rationale and voted unanimously to table the proposal for further inquiry by the GAC C & I Committee in the fall. The Council did act, however, to approve the establishment of a new course as proposed, ACOM552.

8. Late arriving proposals to establish four combined bachelors/masters programs (listed below) were briefly considered by the Council. The Council voted unanimously to send the four proposals to its Committee on Curriculum & Instruction for review and recommendation.

BA Sociology / MS Health Policy, Management & Behavior
BA Economics / MS Health Policy, Management & Behavior
BS Economics / MS Health Policy, Management & Behavior
BA Psychology / MS Health Policy, Management & Behavior

9. The Council recognized long-term member Professor Wayne Logan, departing the University, for his frequent and valuable contributions to graduate education on the campus through work on the Council and its Committees.

10. Adjournment

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Barbara Via, Chair
GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CAAS)

Date: May 12, 2000

Subj.: Report and Recommendation

The CAAS has completed consideration of one student-initiated petition that was originally tabled at its last meeting of 3/29/00:

Marla Frazer has petitioned the Council for an exception to the University graduate policy requiring that doctoral students be enrolled each term for a minimum of three credits, except for periods of official leave of absence. She has asked permission to register in the Spring 2000 term for only a one-credit independent study. She also has incompletes from prior terms that she is working on. Normally, this circumstance would be grounds for a leave of absence. However, Ms. Frazer wishes to remain enrolled at the University in order to maintain access to University Health Services. She is seeking the exception to graduate policy as a reasonable accommodation to a disabling condition.

The Committee found no merit to the appeal on academic grounds. Advice of University Counsel was sought regarding this case and based on that advice and the Committee's sense of the situation, we voted unanimously to deny the petition for exception to the policy.

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Maria Brown, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction

Date: May 12, 2000

Subj.: Report and Recommendations

The Committee on Curriculum & Instruction met on April 27, 2000. Members attending the meeting were Maria Brown, Cliff Ellis and Karin Reinhold. Jon Bartow was present as staff to the Committee. Laterian McBrewer, Kevin Quinn, Diane Dewar and Greg Harper were unable to attend.

The Committee reviewed four proposals and acted to unanimously recommend approval by the GAC for all of them. A brief synopsis for each appears below.

1. The Department of Political Science proposes to change the curriculum of the M.A. program to require any two field seminars, rather than one from each of two categories as is currently the case. In addition, it is proposed that POS516 no longer be required for masters students. Both of the changes are proposed to attract and accommodate masters level students with a program of increased flexibility. The original structure was based in the doctoral program and is judged to be unnecessary at the MA level.
2. The School of Public Health proposes changes to the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. One general change is to replace one core course (HPM 501 Health Policy Analysis & Management) with another (HPM 500 Health Care Organization, Delivery & Finance). In addition, minor changes are proposed in 5 of the 6 areas of concentration. All proposed changes appear to have been very thoroughly examined by the faculty.
3. The Department of Women's Studies proposes one change to the curriculum of the M.A. program. The two-credit proseminar AWSS510 (Advanced Feminist Pedagogy in Theory) is to become a required "gateway" course in the program. The program remains at 32 credits in total.
4. The Department of Educational Administration seeks authorization for a second cooperative doctoral program with another SUNY unit. Like that approve with SUNY Oswego a few years ago, the SUNY New Paltz initiative calls for the delivery of UAlbany's doctoral program with a slight modification to the minimum standard for resident credit. Students admitted to the program will be required to complete at least 30 credits through graduate study offered by the University at Albany. The three-course differential between this minimum and the 39 credits normally required of resident students in the Ed Admin program will be handled through introductory courses instructed by New Paltz faculty.

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Don Byrd, Chair and Jon Bartow, staff, on behalf of the
GAC Committee on Educational Policy & Procedure

Date: May 12, 2000

Subj.: Report and Recommendation

5. The GAC Committee on Educational Policy & Procedure met twice this semester (3/21/00 & 4/25/00) to consider a proposal from the Director of Graduate Admissions to modify University non-degree graduate admissions policy. The proposal seeks to establish a 12 credit limit on the amount of course work taken in non-degree status that might be subsequently applied toward a degree program, but does not limit the amount of overall graduate work that may be taken in non-degree status. This differs from the current practice of limiting non-degree study to 12 credits. The Committee conducted a brief survey of opinion on this matter through the academic deans.

Following significant discussion the Committee determined that the current policy (printed below) adequately addresses the issues raised in the proposal. Accordingly, the Committee does not propose any changes at this time. It is, however, recommended that admission practices be freshly examined in light of the existing policy:

“Nondegree study is limited to a total of 12 credits applicable to a degree program.”