

5-12-2015 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Council meeting of May 12, 2015

Approved by the Council on September 28, 2015

In attendance: J. Bartow (staff), G. Burke, S. Chittur, A. Dariano (staff), C. Davis (staff), R. Fogarty, G. Griffith, L. Halpern, S. Hogan, D. Mancini, B. Mielenz, A. Rorissa (Chair), K. Williams (Dean)

Guests: Karen Chico Hurst & Melissa Powers (Registrar's Office), Randall Craig & Kir Kuiken (English Department)

Draft Minutes from the April 28, 2015 meeting were approved by the Council without changes by a vote of 8-0-1.

1. Chair Rorissa welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made by all.
2. Guests Kir Kuiken & Randall Craig from the English Department presented a BS English/MA Liberal Studies Update Proposal that was approved by the Council with a vote of 8-0-1 and then presented the 3+2 MA English (with SUIBE) Proposal that was approved by the Council with a vote of 9-0-0.
3. Committee on Admissions & Academic Report – Leslie Halpern submitted two FERPA Confidential cases for approval. The Council voted to approve Case # 2 with a vote of 9-0-0 and the Council also voted to approve Case # 3 with a vote of 9-0-0.
4. Committee on Curriculum & Instruction Report (below) recommending approval for “fine tuning” changes to the M.A. I/O Psychology Program was submitted and the Council voted to approve with a vote of 9-0-0.
5. BS/MS (Info Sci) Student Exception Request (FERPA confidential) was submitted and the Council voted to approve with a vote of 9-0-0.
6. PhD Information Science Update Proposal (below) was submitted and the Council voted to approve with a vote of 9-0-0.
7. Counseling Psychology PhD Program Update Proposal was submitted and the GAC voted not to approve it by a vote of 1-8-0, following concerns expressed in discussion regarding the proposed curriculum milestone requirement for “a first-authored scholarly presentation at a regional, national or international conference..” The GAC subsequently voted to approve the proposal if it were to be modified so as to require “submittal for presentation” in lieu of “presentation.”
8. Dean's Report – Kevin Williams – No Report
9. Chair's Report – Abebe Rorissa

The following Bills were approved by the University Senate at its May 11th meeting:

- Senate Bill 1415-05 (Proposal to Discontinue and Deregister Graduate Programs in Geology)
- Senate Bill 1415-07 (Proposal to Establish an Advanced Graduate Certificate Program in Adolescent Special Education for Childhood Special Educators)

In addition to these Bills, the Senate also approved a Charter Amendment, 1415-02A, Re: Voting for Ex Officio Members of University Senate Councils and Committees.

On 5/4/2015, the President signed the proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate Program in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security.

10. *Next meeting scheduled to be determined for September 2015.*

11. *The meeting was adjourned.*

END OF GAC 5-12-2015 MINUTES

To: Graduate Academic Council
From: GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)
Sridar Chittur, Chair
Date: May 6, 2015
Subj: Report & Recommendation

The CC&I considered, via email discussion, a proposal recently submitted by the College of Arts & Sciences for change to the existing MA program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. This is to be the first “fine tuning” curricular adjustment to the program since it was established in 2009, to “simplify the course requirements and allow more flexibility.” One curricular category of electives is to be collapsed (eliminated) and another category of seminars correspondingly increased, with the electives from the eliminated category shifted/added to an existing third non-core category. With a vote concluding on 4/30/15, the CC&I unanimously (5-0-0) recommends the GAC approve the proposal for changes to the MA program. The full proposal is appended for reference.

The INF PhD Program faculty requests that the existing doctoral specialization in Decision and Policy Science (DAPS) be renamed Data Analytics (DA) and that a revised description for the program be listed in the Graduate Bulletin.

Rationale: The DAPS specialization has been part of the INF PhD program since its inception. Several of the founding members of the DAPS specialization have retired, and many of the topics from the original specialization, particularly those in judgment and decision theory, are no longer supported in their home departments. The revised concentration and the diversity of the supporting faculty reflects the broadening of the definition of ‘data’ used in decision analysis as well as capturing the essence of evidence-based decision-making informed by computational science and simulation modeling.

Proposed **change** to INF PhD program description for the Graduate Bulletin:

http://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/information_science_phd_degree.htm

The Information Science Ph.D. program currently offers primary and secondary specializations in **Data Analytics**, ~~Decision and Policy Sciences~~; Geographic Information Science; Information Assurance; Information, Government, and Democratic Society; Information in Organizational Environments; and Knowledge Organization and Management.

Proposed Data Analytics description for the Graduate Bulletin, replacing the section on DAPS:

Data Analytics (DA)

Working with understanding the massive amounts of data emanating from a complex world requires tools that bridge among technical aspects of computer science and conceptual issues related to human cognition and how users focus their attention and make sense out of masses of complex data. At the heart of this concentration are theories and views of how data are structured into information and made actionable, and how action in turn creates new data. This concentration is designed to provide deep knowledge in the tools and techniques needed for research in this field.

Existing DAPS description being replaced:

Decision and Policy Sciences (DAPS)

The Decision and Policy Sciences specialization is concerned with the appropriate use of information and quantitative and substantive analyses to support judgment and decision-making on issues of importance to policy, administration, and management. Methods emphasized within the field include multivariate statistics, judgment and decision analysis, systems modeling, evaluation, operations research, and economic analysis.