

**Graduate Academic Council
2010 – 2011**

Minutes of the Council meeting for December 10, 2010
Approved by the Council on January 24, 2011

In attendance: J. Baronner (staff), J. Bartow (staff), F. Bolton (staff), S. Commuri,
N. Fahrenkopf, C. Fox, T. Groves, L. Kranich (Chair), H. Miller,
K. Williams

Unable to attend: J. Aini, R. Beach, S. Chittur, L. Fuller, S. Kazanas, F. Leiva,
W. Lanford, T. Timmons

1. Minutes

Chair Kranich is working on previous minutes and will forward them to members after finals. Voting will be via e-mail.

2. Dean's report – K. Williams

The SUNY System has received funding from the Sloan Foundation for development of Professional Science Master's programs. UAlbany is part of the SUNY PSM consortium and will be eligible for funding for the development of new programs. The last round of funding supported the development of PSM programs in Forensic Biology; Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy; and Computer Science. The program in Forensic Biology has received official PSM affiliation status from the Council of Graduate Schools, and the other two programs should be approved for affiliate status shortly.

The Dean discussed the future role of Academic Analytics on campus for assessment of doctoral program quality. The University's contract with AA is up for renewal this year and a decision about whether or not to renew needs to be made in the spring. Concerns about the rigor, reliability, and validity of the AA database were reviewed by the Dean. If doctoral program directors and faculty feel that the data will be useful for program assessment, we will consider purchasing. However, there is a hesitancy to sign a four year contract. The Dean pointed out the difficulty in reviewing the data since it is classified as proprietary information. He also pointed out that we will review updates to determine if changes previously suggested were enacted.

3. Chair's report –L. Kranich

The proposal from the Department of Economics for a combined BS-MA in Economics was approved by UPPC and UAC and will advance to the Senate floor on Monday (12/13). Since Chair Kranich is unable to attend the Senate meeting, Council member T. Groves will represent GAC.

The School of Business's proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Information Security, which has been approved by GAC and UPPC, is ready to move to the Senate. However, SEC approval is still required. The sponsors are not able to attend Monday's meeting and have requested that the proposal be deferred until the first Senate meeting in the spring.

The School of Education's proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Online Learning and Teaching (COLT) will be reviewed by CC&I prior to consideration by the Council.

The Chair previously forwarded to Council members (1) an e-mail from Professor Brett Bowles from French Studies concerning the enrollment and budgetary data on which the program deactivations were based and (2) a letter from AAUP to the President requesting information concerning the need for program deactivations and the consultative process. The President has now replied to AAUP and the Chair will forward his response. Additional budget information has been posted on MyUAlbany.

The Chair will set up a poll for Council members to survey their availability for the spring semester. He will notify members of the dates and times for next semester's meetings.

4. Committee Reports

CAAS – H. Miller, Chair

The Committee considered case GACCAAS 2010-11-2 involving a student's grievance of an Unsatisfactory grade which resulted in the student's termination from the program. Previously, the Committee had begun to review the case but tabled discussion pending a request for additional information from the Department. The Committee voted 3-0-1 to deny the grievance. The Council unanimously approved the Committee's report and recommendation.

CC&I – T. Groves, Chair

Nothing to report.

CEPP – S. Commuri, Chair

Nothing to report.

5. Old Business - Discussion of CAA Assessment Reports

Council member H. Miller previously e-mailed a draft summary report of the History Department to Council members. One member suggested that summary reports should be issued by the Council as a whole without mention of the presenter.

There was discussion of the form and content of the summaries. The Chair suggested that the summaries briefly explain the types of programs; the main issues and recommendations of the external reviewers, the Academic Program Review Committee of CAA, and any new issues of concern to the Council; as well as the Department's response. Another Council member thought it was redundant and unnecessary to repeat what appears in either the external reviewer report or the report of the PRC.

The Council may wish to affirm the previous recommendations, thus adding weight, or it may wish to rebut those or offer others. The Council will discuss and vote to approve each summary before forwarding it to Institutional Research for inclusion in the file. Council member Miller will update her report to reflect the further discussion.

Tom Timmons was unable to attend today's meeting to present the review of the Philosophy Department.

Council member S. Commuri presented his report of Educational Administration. S. Commuri will break the report down in smaller segments so both large and small issues will both be addressed.

Since Council member N. Fahrenkopf needed to leave early, he was unable to present his report on Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences.

END OF GAC 12/10/2010 MINUTES
