

Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council Meeting of 3/30/00
AD 253, 9:00AM

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

Members absent: Laterrian McBrewer, Erin O'Brien

Guest: Jon Bartow (staff to the Council)

1. Minutes of the meeting of 2/10/00 were reviewed and approved without change.
2. Associate Vice President Mumpower reported on a pending site visit (April 5 & 6, 2000) by the State Education Department's Task Force on Distance Education and distributed a memo (3/30/00) from Associate Provost Carlos Santiago on the topic. The visit is intended to examine the University's delivery capabilities and established oversight arrangements for quality assurance of distance education matters. The University target in regard to the visit is to become certified by SED to deliver registered programs using alternate modes of delivery in addition to traditional instructional means.
3. Report of the Committee on Curriculum & Instruction

The Committee report of March 27, 2000 (appended below) was amended on the floor to include a recommendation to approve a proposal from the Reading Dept. for graduate instruction to be provided by two advanced doctoral students during the Spring 2000 term. Following amendment, the Council voted unanimously to accept the Committee report and in doing so approve the three action items presented (Reading – grad instruction; Biometry & Statistics – grad instruction; MBA curriculum change). In matters related to the requests for authorization for doctoral students to provide graduate level instruction, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that appropriate administrators be apprised of Council concerns toward the lack of regular faculty to deliver core and/or required course work in the Departments of Biometry & Statistics and Reading. The Council further requested that the Graduate Office study and report back regarding campus-wide compliance with the University policy on Eligibility to Teach Graduate Courses.
4. Report of the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing

The Committee report of March 29, 2000 (appended below) was presented by the Committee Chair. The Council voted unanimously to accept the report and in doing so approve the two action items presented.
5. Report of the Committee on Educational Policy & Procedure

A proposal under consideration by the Committee was mentioned to the Council by Jon Bartow with additional comments by Professor Sanford Levine. The proposal is to remove the 12-credit cap on non-degree graduate study, but in doing so limit to 12 the amount of credits earned in non-degree status that may subsequently be applied toward a degree program. The Committee will be soliciting input on the proposal from academic units across the campus before considering the matter further.
6. The Council noted the resignation of graduate student member Erin O'Brien from its membership for personal family reasons.
7. Associate Vice President Mumpower remarked that he considers the reactivation of periodic graduate program review activities likely in the future, with such activities to be conducted by a broadly representative committee.
8. Adjournment

To: Graduate Academic Council

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

Date: March 27, 2000

Subj.: Report and Recommendations

The Committee on Curriculum & Instruction met on March 16, 2000. Members attending the meeting were Maria Brown, Cliff Ellis, Kevin Quinn and Karin Reinhold. Jon Bartow was present as staff to the Committee. Lateralian McBrewer, Diane Dewar and Greg Harper were unable to attend.

The Committee reviewed three proposals, tabled one (from the Department of Reading) and acted to recommend approval by the GAC for the remaining two. A brief synopsis for each appears below.

1. Department of Biometry & Statistics seeks permission for Alexia Iasonas, an advanced doctoral student, to provide graduate instruction for STA552 or STA553. The Chair of the Department has documented her qualifications and indicates confidence in her ability to teach such core courses. The Chair has satisfied the C & I Committee with responses to inquiries about instructional course load (only one course at a time) and the potential impact on her own doctoral progress. As a result, the Committee recommends approval for the request. It is noted, however, that the Committee is concerned that staffing in the Department apparently precludes regular faculty from delivering core course work. This may be a danger sign for departmental academic programs. The Committee recommends that this concern be noted as well by the GAC and communicated to the Dean and Provost.
2. Curriculum change – full-time MBA program: One credit “Intro to Concentration” courses (FIN600, MGT600, MKT600 or MSI600) will be dropped from the curriculum. One credit will be added to the Info Decision Systems course MSI521 and its number changed to MSI522. These changes will facilitate more technology instruction in the program. Additionally, ACC 516 (one credit) & ACC 517 (two credits) will be combined and delivered as ACC 518 (three credits). Similarly, MSI508 (one credit) & MSI512 (two credits) will be combined and delivered as MSI513 (three credits).

To: Graduate Academic Council

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

Date: March 29, 2000

Subj.: Report and Recommendations

The CAAS met on March 29, 2000. Attending were members Wayne Logan, Anne Boehm and Barbara Via. Jon Bartow joined the meeting as staff. The Committee considered three student-originated petitions. One petition was tabled in order to allow for further investigation with SUNY Counsel. The remaining two are unanimously recommended to the Graduate Academic Council for action. A brief synopsis for each case appears below.

1. A student has petitioned for reinstatement into the Ph.D. program in Public Administration. He had previously failed to pass a required comprehensive exam in two tries and had been dropped from the program consistent with departmental standards. The petition alleged that an injustice had been served by a former faculty member's failure to provide continued program guidance following his departure from the University at Albany. The petitioner submitted that lack of continued guidance in this regard amounted to a “breach of contract” for professional preparation. A petition for reinstatement had previously been reviewed by the departmental admissions committee and the Grievance Committee of

the Graduate School of Public Affairs. Included in the file of prior materials reviewed by the GSPA Grievance Committee was correspondence from the former faculty member clarifying his position with the student upon his departure and thereafter. The GSPA Grievance Committee considered the *student* primarily responsible for exam preparation and found “no basis for the grievance.” Having thoroughly reviewed all materials presented by the student, the School and the Department, the Academic Standing Committee recommends that the prior School action be upheld and the petition denied.

2. A student was admitted to a 56-credit masters program with study beginning in the Summer of 1999. The admission was conditional upon completion of bachelor’s level study, consistent with University policy. Communication regarding the conditions on admission, however, was not especially clear. Upon routine follow-up, Graduate Office staff sought to document completion of the undergraduate requirements at the prior institution. By the time the documentation of the undergraduate degree (12/99) was received, the student had completed 20 graduate credits and 3 undergraduate credits at UAlbany. It was subsequently determined that three of the graduate credits and the three undergraduate credits were transferred back to the prior institution to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements. As all credits at UAlbany were completed prior to award of the bachelors degree, a serious question arose regarding the applicability of such credits to the program here. A registration “hold” was recorded by the Graduate Office staff and the student advised to seek authorization for continuance from the GAC. Following detailed review of all materials, the Committee recommends that the GAC authorize a resumption of graduate study at the University. However, since three of the completed graduate credits were used to fulfill undergraduate requirements, it is further recommended that such credits be excluded from those used to fulfill the (56) minimum credit requirements of the graduate program.