

## 5/9/2019 GAC Minutes

Minutes of the Graduate Academic Council meeting of May 9, 2019, 9:00 AM MSC 102A.

Approved by the Council by e-vote concluding on 6-19-19, 7-0-0 (Berg, Dawson, Faught, Kordzek, Stanwicks, Williams-Hart & Zakrzewski).

In attendance: S. Appe, G. Berg, A. Dawson, S. Faught, A. Kordzek, C. Lawson, A. Morse, K.N. Stanwicks, T. Williams-Hart, W. Zakrzewski Jr., K. Williams, J. Bartow (staff), S. Kent (staff), S. Pease (staff), C. Davis (staff)

Guests: Mitch Leventhal, Professor in Educational Policy & Leadership  
Jennifer Goodall, Assistant Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Science

1. Chair's Report – In the absence of Chair Rafferty, G. Berg chaired the GAC meeting. G. Berg has volunteered to be Chair of the Graduate Academic Council for next academic year 2019-2020 contingent on the Senate's actions in the fall. George Berg was elected to be Chair of the Graduate Academic Council for the academic year 2019-2020 by a vote of 7-0-0.
2. Dean's Report – Dean Williams shared highlights from the president's speech at the last senate meeting. He discussed graduate student stipends, steps to bring Ualbany to full compliance with Blue Ribbon Report, increasing stipends to meet recommended 2016 range.
3. The draft GAC minutes from 4/18/19 were approved by vote of 10-0-0.
4. Old business - Proposals to add distance education delivery authorization to the MS program in Educational Policy & Leadership and the MS program in Higher Education. Prof. M Leventhal fielded the council's questions concerning class size limits and enrollment projections. The proposals were approved by the council, by a vote of 10-0-0
5. Report of the GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction – Several proposals had been reviewed.
  - A) Public Administration and Policy PhD Program
  - B) Art MA and MFA Program proposals
  - C) Geography MA Program Proposal
  - D) School of Public Health proposals –
    - 1) Biomedical Sciences MS and PhD Program Proposals
    - 2) Biometry and Statistics MS and PhD Program Proposals – Motion was made to remove the Biometry and Statistics Ph.D. from list of CCI's proposals, to be voted on separately. The separation of the Ph.D. program was accepted by the GAC by a vote of 10-0-0
    - 3) Environmental Health Sciences MS and PhD Program Proposals
    - 4) Public Health MPH Epidemiology Concentration Program Proposal Biometry and Statistics

GAC acceptance of the CCI's approval of all the above proposals, except the Ph.D. program in Biometry and Statistics, was indicated by a vote of 10-0-0

- 5) Proposal of the Biometry and Statistics Ph.D. – Discussion with the council with CCI representatives, G.Berg and C.Davis. Concerns arose regarding the teaching component of the four point proposal.
  - a) Motion made to separate first three points of the proposal from the teaching component/fourth point of the proposal, and accepted by a vote of 10-0-0
  - b) GAC approval of the 2 points of the Biometry and Statistics Ph.D. proposal, i.e. Add HEPI 503, and the program name change by a vote of 10-0-0.
  - c) GAC voted to table approval of the teaching component until the next GAC meeting in the 2019-2020 year. Approved by a vote of 9-0-0. Concerns noted included the following issues for the School to address:
    - What percentage of PhD students expect to join the academy and teach? Do some PhDs pursue other careers where this would be less relevant?
    - If all PhD students are to fulfill this teaching requirement, will they do so as paid teaching assistants? If not, how might it be handled?
    - When in the student timeline is it expected that the student will fulfill the requirement? If after reaching candidacy aren't most PhD students on research funding (as RAs)?
    - What are the courses to be taught by the PhD students? Are they undergrad? Or will the PhD students be assisting in grad courses but not formally as the "Instructor of Record"?
    - How is the department defining competence in teaching? The nature and duties of teaching assistantships vary considerably, and holding a TA assignment does not guarantee that a student is competent in the teaching of biostatistics.
6. New Business - Proposal for bachelors/master's admissions exception and structural arrangement for MS program in CEHC – Prof. Jennifer Goodall was available for questions. GAC voted to approve the proposal by a vote 8-0-1.
7. It was noted that the Council would like to begin approving the agenda and asking for additional business before each meeting begins, going forward with next year's GAC meetings

The GAC meeting was adjourned without opposition, at 10:25 AM