

Ad Hoc University-Wide Governance Committee
October 15, 2004
Minutes

Present: J. Acker, R. Bangert-Drowns, B. Carlson, P. Eppard, T. Hoff, L. Schell, G. Singh, B. Via

Minutes: The Minutes of September 24, 2004 were approved.

Summary of Discussion on Graduate Curriculum:

Following appropriate notice, Schools and Colleges shall have the authority to approve new graduate courses and approve changes to existing graduate courses. (This motion passed 13-0-0) (NOTE: accompanying rationale should explain the committee recommendation about requiring advance, electronic distribution of all proposals for the creation, modification, or deletion of graduate courses. The distribution of such notice would be more effective if accompanied by a requirement to use a form identifying similar courses offered within the University, and identifying potential impact of the course action on programs outside of the School or College. Adoption of this recommendation would require replacement of Senate Charter SX.4.6.2 (amended May 2004), which presently reads: "The committee [on Curriculum and Instruction] shall review new graduate courses and substantive changes to existing graduate courses, as approved within the schools and colleges, subject to final review by the Council.")

- Senate Charter SX.4.4 should be reaffirmed in its entirety. SX.4.4 reads: "The Council as a whole shall review all proposals for new graduate programs. It shall submit recommended program approvals to the University Senate for consideration." (This motion passed 11Yes-1No-0 Abstention, with votes reflecting the previously expressed views of absent members.)

- Senate Charter SX4.6.1 should be amended as follows: "The Council or a designated committee shall consider all major revisions to existing graduate degree programs and final approval of all such revisions shall be made by the Council." (At present, SX.4.6.1 reads: "The committee [on Curriculum and Instruction] shall consider all revisions to existing graduate degree programs and shall submit all recommended changes to the Council for final approval.") (This motion passed by vote of 8 Yes-3 No-0 Abstain, including the votes of absent members.) (NOTE: the rationale should explain that only "major" program revisions require the review and approval of the GAC or a committee; that the GAC should define "major" program revisions; that relevant considerations to defining "major" program revisions are likely to include (1) how fundamentally the revisions alter the educational content of a program; (2) the potential impact of the revisions on other units; (3) the likelihood that the revisions require further review and approval by external bodies such as the State Dept. of Education; (4) such other factors as GAC may deem relevant.)

- We have begun discussion of but have not yet voted on proposals that would affect the continuation of graduate programs. One motion was made and seconded: "Decisions regarding

the dissolution of graduate programs initiated by action taken within the involved School or College shall occur at the School or College level." This motion is meant to distinguish between actions taken to terminate a program that originate OUTSIDE of the relevant school or college, and those actions taken to terminate a program that originate WITHIN the relevant school or college. The present Senate Charter SX.4.5 reads: "The Council as a whole shall review proposals that would affect the continuation of graduate programs.

SX 4.5.1 - It shall consider assessment reports pertaining to graduate programs including those from the Council on Academic Assessment and shall recommend changes it deems desirable.

SX.4.5.2 - After due consideration, the Council may bring a recommendation to suspend or discontinue of [sic] a program to the Senate."

- At the October 22nd meeting, we will plan on beginning with a resumption of considering the issue of "continuation of" graduate programs.

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Minutes prepared by James Acker.