

Graduate Academic Council  
2001 – 2002

Minutes of the Meeting of April 5, 2002  
Approved by the Council on May 9, 2002

In attendance: C. MacDonald (Chair), J. Bartow (Staff), L. Raffalovich, D. Shub, L. Trubitt, R. Irving,  
V. Ng, L. Niu, J. Mumpower, S. Nagy-Zekmi, H. Charalambous, P. Brusoe & J. Baez

Unable to attend: C. Smith, M. Gallant

1. Minutes from the GAC meeting of February 15, 2002 were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Council.

2. Report of the Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (appended to the end of these minutes).

After a brief discussion of the one item reported (GLS680 course substitution for a student), the Council acted to unanimously accept the report and approve the Committee's recommendation.

3. Report of the Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (appended to the end of these minutes).

After a brief discussion of the one item reported for action (BA/MLS to BA/MS; BS/MLS to BS/MS; MA/MLS to MA/MS), the Council acted to unanimously accept the report and introduce the proposal to the Senate for action.

4. Proposal to establish a dual master's degree program – MA History and MA Public Affairs & Policy (appended to the end of these minutes).

The Council directly considered the Proposal for establishment of the dual program that has previously been approved in the College of Arts & Sciences and Rockefeller College. After a period of brief discussion, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Proposal and introduce it to the Senate for action.

4. Dean's Report – J. Mumpower

- The NLRB has authorized a unionization vote for grad assistants employed by the Research Foundation
- Graduate study applications for Fall 2002 are strong, especially at the doctoral level. It's still a bit early to make conclusions about the master's level.

5. Chair's Report – C. MacDonald

Professor MacDonald engaged the Council in a review of proposed changes to By-Laws. The consensus reached of what input to provide to Senate leadership at the conclusion of the meeting appears at the end of these minutes. The council voted unanimously to approve the amendments in concept.

Adjournment.

END OF 4/5/02 GAC MINUTES

Next meeting 5/9/02 at 9:00AM in CC 364.

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To: Graduate Academic Council  
From: Jon Bartow on behalf of the  
GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CAAS)  
Date: April 3, 2002  
Subj.: Report and Recommendations

The CAAS recently received a petition from the Director of the Liberal Studies MA Program on behalf of a student. Similar to a case presented earlier in the year, the Director proposed that a substitution within the student's program, AARH797 for AGLS680, be allowed. It was documented that the work completed for AARH797 fulfilled (or surpassed) the normal requirements set forth for students in AGLS680. The petition was distributed electronically to CAAS members. All members responded electronically in favor of approving the petition. Accordingly, it is hereby recommended unanimously to the GAC for approval.

This one item constitutes the full report of the CAAS to the GAC for the GAC meeting on April 5, 2002.

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To: Graduate Academic Council  
From: Jon Bartow on behalf of the  
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)  
Date: April 4, 2002  
Subj.: Report and Recommendations

The CC&I met on 4/2/02. In attendance were: V. Ng, C. Ellis, L. Raffalovich, K. Quinn, R.-M. Weber, K. Reinhold, P. Brusoe and J. Bartow (staff). L. Niu and M. Gallant were unable to attend.

Two proposals were reviewed. One having to do with changes to the curriculum of graduate Spanish programs was tabled for further information. The second is reported to the GAC for action:

School of Information Science and Policy - Proposal to convert combined/dual program offerings currently involving the MLS degree program to become programs involving the MS Information Science program.

BA/MLS to BA/MS  
BS/MLS to BS/MS  
MA (English or History)/MLS to MA (English or History)/MS

The proposal follows upon revisions to MS Information Science degree program re-registered in 2000 as the replacement for the MLS degree offering. Since that time, American Library Association accreditation of the MLS has been transferred to the MS Information Science program. Effective Fall 2002, admission to the MLS has been suspended, with the exception of applicants to the School Media Concentration. A subsequent proposal, to incorporate the School Media students within a track of the MS Information Science is forthcoming, subject to special registration requirements for programs leading to NYS Ed Certification. The Committee finds the current proposal consistent with the previously approved MLS to MS conversion and, accordingly, is supportive of the request. The proposal is unanimously recommended to the GAC for approval.

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**Proposal to Establish Joint Master of Arts in History (MA) and  
Master of Arts in Public Policy (MPP)**

**Submitted by Department of History and Department of  
Public Administration and Policy**

**March 28, 2002**

This proposal seeks to establish a joint MA/MPP degree involving the master's degrees in History and Public Policy. The faculties of History and of Public Policy have unanimously approved this proposal. Students have been able to obtain advanced standing in either of these degrees under the rule that "[u]p to 30 percent of the credits required for a second master's degree may be allowed for advanced standing by the application of appropriate courses from the first completed master's degree program." However, the proposal would provide the advantages of a formal dual Master's degree program, including more clear advising and programmatic integration, advance understanding of the options under the program, and public awareness of the possibility of this particular sequence of graduate study.

The proposed program likely would involve under ten students per year, but it would serve a very useful purpose for those students. There is a growing literature that analyzes current questions of public policy in the context of history and using historical methods. For example, some of the most influential academic works on government regulation in recent years are books steeped in historical analysis (for example, Thomas McCraw's "Prophets of Regulation" [1984], and Joel Seligman's "The Transformation of Wall Street" [1995]). The program would allow graduate students and faculty to combine these two fields in a systematic, formal way. The integration of historical and public policy analysis could evolve into a strength of the University at Albany given the faculty spanning these two fields and the intrinsic value of combining the two fields.

The program would not require any new resources, as all of the required courses are offered currently. We can envision no respects in which the proposal would detract from the vitality of any programs now existing on campus. As noted above, by formalizing that which can be done on an informal basis at present, the combined degree would facilitate the quality of student advising, program planning, and awareness of the option on campus.

### **Proposed Program Structure**

1. **Program Advisement.** Students should receive advisement in both the History Department and in the Department of Public Administration and Policy to ensure satisfactory completion of both degrees. Students may consult with the Graduate Director in History regarding their history program or choose another faculty mentor; likewise, students should consult with the Director of the MPP program or their advisor in the public policy program.
2. **Program Concentrations in History.** Students may choose to concentrate in thematic fields of study or in geographic areas of study. Most joint degree students will concentrate in Public Policy history,

but may choose one of the other thematic areas: Social and/or Economic History; Local and Regional History; Global, Comparative and International History; Culture and Society; Gender and Society; and Work and Society. Students may also select, with the permission of both departments, thematic fields from among those offered in the public policy program, and may combine courses from History, Public Policy, and other programs. Students choosing geographic concentrations may work in the United States, European, Latin American, or Non-Western Areas. Students in the joint program need not declare a policy concentration in the MPP program, as the history program will constitute a concentration.

3. **Credit Requirements and Cumulative GPA.** Students must meet the requirements for the M.A in history as well as the requirements for the MPP. Of the 30 credits required for the M.A in history, 21 must be history credits. Six of the other 9 credits must come from courses approved for credit for the MPP. Of the 40 credits for the MPP 8 credits must come from History and must include His 630. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 is required for completion of the M. A. and the MPP degrees.

For the MPP component, students must take all of the required courses for the MPP program, as indicated in the following listing.

Public Policy (40)

PAD 503 Econ Analysis for Public Affairs I

PAD 504 Data, Models and Decisions I

PAD 505 Data, Models and Decisions II (or His 590)

PUB 506 Implementation and Impact

PUB 507-8 Professional Applications

PUB 514 Economic Analysis for Public Affairs II

PUB 522 Policy and Politics

PUB 529 Law and Policy or PUB 502 Philosophical & Ethical Issues in Public Policy

Master's Essay (4 Credits)

8 history credits that would serve as MPP concentration

For the History component, students must take all of the required courses for the history program, as indicated in the following listing.

History (30)

A History Research Seminar (or Master's Thesis 2-6) (4)

History 630 Readings in Public Policy History (4)

HIS 590 Quantitative Methods and Computing for Historians (4) Or PAD 505 II

6 credits MPP program

12 other HIS credits

Total shared credits (14) of 70. Total number of credits for combined degree: 56.

**4. Research Seminars, Reading Seminars, Required Courses, and Thesis or Comprehensive Field.**

Exam Students must complete at least one research seminar in the major field in history and one reading seminar in history. With Departmental approval a thesis in history for 4-6 credits may be presented in place of the research seminar. If the student does not write a thesis, they must take a comprehensive field exam in history. For information on the thesis in history and the comprehensive field examination, see Section IV.A.6 and IV.A.7 of *Graduate Programs and Policies History Department University at Albany*.

Research seminars must be completed at this University.

5. **Foreign Language Requirements.** Students who choose to write theses in history in areas which require a foreign language competency will have to pass a foreign language requirement. Language requirements will be satisfied by a two-hour departmental examination or by an examination administered by a language department with the approval of the History Department or by satisfactory completion of a graduate level language course approved by the History Department. Course work taken to satisfy a foreign language requirement may not be used for credit toward the degree. If the student fails a language exam, he

or she may take it a second time, but no more than two times for a particular language. When a student takes a qualifying foreign language examination the results should be recorded on the Registrar's Form (7/94). The original is sent to the Registrar's office and a copy is placed in the student's Departmental file.

General Issues outside of editing to the GAC bylaws:

Areas of Overlap with GAC:

- 1) The procedures by which Article II, 1.7: "The Senate shall be consulted on major university administrative reorganizations and appointments", are to be done are not clear. This mechanism should be clarified.
- 2) EPC 1.23: "The council [EPC] shall review proposals for new programs and for the discontinuance of existing programs with respect to budgetary implications and consistency with the academic plan." It is recommended that new programs receive a first look from GAC instead of or in addition to the review from EPC. The budget mechanisms have evolved such that it would in general be expected that the support of a dean would require significant budgetary analysis, and so the resource considerations will necessarily be addressed. However, it makes sense to consider the programmatic and curricular issues internally, **before** the outside review required for formal approval.
- 3) EPC 1.4 "The council shall evaluate the educational performance of the University as a whole and of its various components" has significant overlap with GAC 1.4 and UAC's charge. It is recommended that combined undergraduate and graduate assessment be moved to a separate council. Historically this was often performed by joint subcommittees, but that construction was unwieldy.

General:

- 4) There is no mention in the bylaws of the proportion of teaching faculty in the senate. It is recommended that consideration be made of specifying a minimum proportion for each of the mechanisms: school, college, and at-large elections and presidential appointment.
- 5) To make faculty councils more effective in answering the needs of the administration it is recommended that council terms normally be of 2 or 3 year duration, with staggered terms.
- 6) It is recommended that the charge of CAFE or the possibility of not providing standing membership should be revisited to avoid wasting resources of willing membership.

Graduate Academic Council

1.1 Composition:

The Dean of Graduate Studies or his/her designee, ex officio

At least Six Teaching Faculty (two must be senators and one must be a member of the library staff), representing a balance of disciplinary areas.

One Professional Employee

One to three graduate student(s) (one must be a senator)

One undergraduate student

1.2 The council as a whole shall review all new graduate programs and all proposals to eliminate graduate programs. It shall submit recommended programs or eliminations to the University Senate for approval.

1.3 The council shall have the responsibility for implementing the academic plan as established by the Council on Educational Policy in respect to graduate studies. This is the primary responsibility of the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction. The committee shall consist of at least 5 teaching faculty, at

least two of whom are on the council. The chair of the committee shall be a council member. Minutes will be made available to the university community.

1.31 The committee shall consider all revisions in existing graduate degree programs.

1.32 The committee shall approval all new graduate courses and all changes in courses.

1.33 The committee may at its discretion delegate authority for minor revisions in courses to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

1.34 The committee shall submit all recommended changes and new courses to the council for final approval.

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1.4 The council shall establish criteria for determining academic standing and admissions policy and its application. This is the primary responsibility of the committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. The committee shall consist of at least five teaching faculty, at least two of whom are on the council. The chair of the committee shall be a council member. Minutes will be made available to the university community.

1.41 It shall review changes to standards and procedures for admission to graduate study recommended by the schools, colleges, and departments.

1.42 It shall review changes in standards and procedures for admission to candidacy for graduate degrees recommended by schools, colleges, and departments.

1.43 It shall review such actions of the Dean of Graduate Studies or of school deans and department chairs dealing with academic standing as are brought before it by any interested party.

1.44 The committee shall submit all recommended changes and actions to the council for final approval.

1.5 The council shall provide recommendations to the University Senate on policies concerning the administration and the conduct of graduate programs. This is the primary responsibility of the committee on Academic Policy. The committee shall consist of at least five teaching faculty, at least two of whom are on the council. The chair of the committee shall be a council member. Minutes will be made available to the university community. 1.51 The committee shall recommend such graduate academic regulations as it deems necessary.

1.52 The council shall insure and review procedures for individual student academic grievances at school and college levels.

1.53 The committee shall submit all recommendations to the council for approval. Regulations changes are then brought to the senate for vote if approved by the council.