

**Graduate Academic Council
2006 – 2007**

Minutes of the Council meeting of May 4, 2007

Approved by the Council with slight amendments on October 18, 2007

In attendance: S. Saleh, A. Pomerantz, F. Bolton (staff), J. Bartow (staff), J. Newman, L. Kranich, L. Scoville, M. Pryse & S. Friedman (Chair)

Guest: Prof. Mary Gallant, School of Public Health

Unable to attend: G. Burke, J. Hayes, J. Gangolly & L.-A. McNutt,

1. Minutes of the GAC meeting of 4/20/07 were not prepared or available for review.
2. Dean's Report – M. Pryse

Dean Pryse reported that she had attended the Senate Executive Committee to discuss renaming the Office of Graduate Studies to become "The Graduate School." She anticipates reviewing the matter with UPC in Fall 2007.

3. Chair's Report – S. Friedman

Chair Friedman indicated she had been in contact with the three ombudspersons and they are willing to get together over the summer or in the fall. Prof. Friedman will inquire as to dates and discussion topics.

4. Committee on Curriculum & Instruction – S. Saleh

Prof. Saleh summarized the committee report (appended to the end of these minutes). After a period of brief discussion, the Council voted to accept the report and approve the recommendation contained therein (6-0-0).

5. M.S. Forensic Biology Program – Curriculum Change Proposal

A proposal to amend the MS curriculum was considered directly by the Council due to its late arrival and the upcoming end of the academic year. The proposal substantively removes BIO517B and BIO510 from the curriculum and adds BIO577. Dean Pryse spoke in favor of the proposal, especially in light of the (good news) of conditional accreditation for the program. The Council found the rationale presented in support of the change rather scant, but found no overwhelming problems on the surface. The Council acted to approve the proposal for curriculum update, conditional upon receipt of a detail explanation/rationale for entry into the GAC records/minutes (6-1-0).

6. Ph.D. Economics Program – Change to Qualifying Exam Procedures/Policy

A proposal to amend the PhD Economics Program Qualifying Exam Regulations was considered directly by the Council due to its late arrival and the upcoming end of the academic year. The proposed change amounts to inclusion of an oral exam option in lieu of the 3rd written attempt at the preliminary exam. Ms. Newman expressed concern that 3 attempts should be allowed at all, regardless of exam type. After a period of brief discussion with clarifications by Prof. Kranich, the Council voted to approve the amendment in regulations and authorize the implementation of such (6-0-1).

7. Dr.P.H. – Proposed Curricular Changes

A proposal to amend the DrPH curriculum was considered directly by the Council due to its late arrival and the upcoming end of the academic year. Prof. Mary Gallant from the School provided a background summary of what led to the proposed changes and walked the Council members through the numerous changes that were proposed. The five major changes: admissions requirements; size of the MPH core; comprehensive exam tightening; doctoral internships tightening; and slight changes in course makeup within concentrations. One suggestion was made by Prof. Saleh pertaining to language detailing "1st year" requirements. Too, Council members asked that the School reconsider its proposal to remove the requirement for GRE scores. The Council, while favorably disposed, tabled (5-0-0) action on the proposal to allow for reconsideration of the language and admissions issues within the School with expectation of a subsequent GAC vote to be conducted, perhaps by email.

Addendum: The issues raised by the GAC were considered by the School of Public Health. Comments/response from Prof. Gallant on their behalf (email appended to the end of these minutes) were received and forwarded to the GAC members present at the 5/4/07 meeting (Profs. Saleh, Pomerantz, Pryse, Friedman, Scoville & Kranich. By email vote concluding 10/3/07, the members voted unanimously to approve the curriculum change proposal.

8. Proposal to Suspend Admissions to the MS and PhD Programs in Geology

A proposal to suspend admissions in the Geological Sciences graduate programs was transmitted on 5/1/2007 to the GAC from the College of Arts & Sciences. The Council members present voted (4-0-0) to put consideration of this matter off until the Fall 2007 when it could be thoroughly considered, with summary presentation from the Department.

9. Proposal to amend the MA program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

A proposal to amend the MA program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies was considered directly by the Council due to its late arrival and the upcoming end of the academic year. The Council members present voted (4-0-0) to put consideration of most this matter, the curricular changes, off until the Fall 2007 when it could be thoroughly considered, with summary presentation from the Department. Discussion on the logic of the proposed reduction of program credits from 33 to 30, along with the unusual proposal to create a 0 credit comprehensive exam "course" (LCS698), were noted as both deserving of discussion with a representative of the program faculty. As regards the one piece of the proposal seeking a change to the program title, to become Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies, the members present asked that an email vote be conducted. Chair Friedman subsequently conducted this email vote and concluded it to have unanimously have passed on 5/8/07 by a vote of 5-0-0 (in favor: S. Friedman, A. Pomerantz, L. Scoville, L. Kranich & S. Saleh).

END OF GAC 5/4/07 MINUTES

To: Graduate Academic Council
From: Shadi Saleh, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)
Date: April 30, 2007
Subject: Report and Recommendations

CC&I members: J. Gangolly; R. Irving; J. Newman, A. Pomerantz, J. Rivera-Wilson, S. Saleh, B. Thiel, J. Bartow (staff) and F. Bolton (staff).

One item of business from the Committee's meeting of April 16, 2007 was re-considered.

1. School of Education – Department of Educational Theory and Practice's request for program revisions to the MS in General Educational Studies

As a result of discussing proposed program revisions to the MS in General Educational Studies with Professor Applebee at its April 16th CC&I meeting, the School of Education resubmitted a revised proposal incorporating some clarifying language which was then circulated electronically for the Committee's reconsideration.

To re-cap -- The current 30 credit Department of Educational Theory and Practice MS in General Educational Studies program requires a foundations course and a research course for total of 6 credits. The remaining 24 credits are determined by the student with the help and approval of an assigned advisor. The revised MS in General Educational Studies would require 15 credits in foundational coursework plus a specialty concentration consisting of 15 to 21 additional credits. These 15 to 21 credits are to be taken as part of an MS in General Education Studies or can be taken separately as individual Certificates of Study. The proposal establishes eleven different Certificates of Study, one of which, the CGS in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, was previously approved.

This MS in General Educational Studies will not lead to professional certification for teaching. Rather it is intended (1) to give those individuals who hold professional certification an opportunity to add to or augment an area of specialization for professional development by completing one of the CGS components or (2) to provide another way of earning or completing the 175 professional development hours professionally certified teachers need to maintain their certification while working toward a second masters at the same time.

The restructuring of the MS in General Educational Studies creates a more structured program by requiring a set of courses that address the discipline's five fundamental issues. Establishing eleven Certificates of Graduate Study to be pursued as stand-alone programs of study or as part of a MS allows students the flexibility to pursue areas tailored to their areas of interest.

Satisfied with the answers received and with the revised proposal, the Committee voted (6-0-1) via email to approve the program revision and move it forward to the GAC for further action and approval.

From: Mary Gallant [mailto:mgallant@albany.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2007 12:22 PM
To: Jonathan Bartow
Cc: Mary S Applegate; Brenda A Kirkwood
Subject: [Fwd: Draft note for Jon Bartow]

Dear Jon,

As requested by GAC, the School of Public Health's DrPH Review Committee re-considered the GRE requirement (or lack thereof) as part of the revised DrPH program proposal. After this reconsideration, the committee members decided to stick to their original decision: that official GRE scores should not be required. However, if the applicant has either official or unofficial GRE scores, those scores should be provided as part of the application.

The reasoning behind this is that since most applicants would have taken the GRE exam over five years prior to applying to the DrPH, ETS would not provide official test scores, and it would be burdensome to require applicants to re-take the exam for this reason. In addition, and perhaps even more importantly, since one of the admissions requirements is to possess a Master's degree, the committee believed that a better indicator of success in a doctoral program

is the applicant's academic performance at the masters level, compared to a score on the GRE standardized exam.

The committee also re-considered the language for the Masters degree admission requirement: "MPH, or related master's degree in health, social science, or related field, from an accredited American college or university or a well-regarded foreign college or university." It was decided to keep this language as-is. This will allow for submission of student applications from either a domestic or international institution, and will provide the DrPH Admissions Committee with some flexibility when selecting the top candidates.

Assuming this is approved by the GAC, we would like to request that any new admits for the Fall 2007 semester be required to follow the new rules. We understand that current students should be given the option of following the "old" or the "new" rules. We envision that any student admitted last year will follow the new rules. Students admitted before Fall 2006 will likely follow the old rules since they are further into their requirements at this point. We would be happy to assist in preparing language for the Fall '07 acceptance letters, since we are aware that this letter is considered to be the "contract" with the student.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We appreciate your assistance, and the willingness of GAC to consider the DrPH revisions at the eleventh hour this past semester!
Mary