

**Graduate Academic Council
2005 – 2006**

DRAFT

Minutes of the Council meeting of April 28, 2006
Approved by the Council on

In attendance: D. Byrd, E. Redkey, F. Bolton (staff), G. Burke, J. Bartow (staff), M. Pryse, M. Rodriguez, S. Chinnam, S. Levine

GAC members unable to attend: L. Kranich, L.-A. McNutt, S. Friedman, O. Ongiti & S. Maloney

1. Minutes of the GAC meeting of 4/3/06 were considered and approved without amendment (7-0-0).
2. Dean's Report – M. Pryse
 - Dean Pryse reported that at the faculty meeting of 4/26/06 President Hall distributed a draft set of revised University goals. Included in the seven that were listed was reference to strengthening graduate education, at least in some academic areas.
 - The campus is anticipating the call for data collection for the NRC study of graduate programs.
 - Discussions with program directors regarding graduate student funding continue.
3. Chair's Report – M. Rodriguez
 - The Senate has approved the two bills introduced by GAC for combined graduate program offerings: (1) BA/MA Sociology/Public Affairs & Policy & (2) MS Bioethics / MPH, with Albany Medical Center & Union Graduate College
 - Prof. Rodriguez announced that she will not be able to return to GAC as Chair next year, as she will be serving as the Arts & Sciences Faculty Council Chair. She encouraged other who might be returning to GAC to consider the Chair's role.
4. Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CA&AS)

The written report of the CA&AS, appended to the end of these minutes, was summarized and briefly discussed. By a vote of 7-0-0, the Council voted to accept the report and in doing so approve the recommendation contained therein.
5. Committee on Educational Policy & Procedures (CEP&P)

The written report of the CEP&P, appended to the end of these minutes, was summarized and briefly discussed. By a vote of 7-0-0, the Council voted to accept the report and in doing so approve the recommendation contained therein.
6. Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

The written report of the CC&I, appended to the end of these minutes, was summarized by Florie Bolton and briefly discussed. By a vote of 7-0-0, the Council voted to accept the report and in doing so approve the recommendation contained therein.

(Prof. G. Burke left the meeting)

7. Dean Pryse brought an updated copy of the proposed new Standards of Academic Integrity (4/27/06 version) back to the Council. The GAC had approved an earlier version at its meeting on 4/3/06. The new version incorporates changes requested and approved by the UAC subsequent to the GAC approval action. The GAC approved the 4/27/06 version with one minor editorial deletion, by a vote of 6-0-0.

END OF 4/28/06 GAC MINUTES

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CA&AS)

Date: April 26, 2006

Subj.: Report and Recommendation

The GAC CA&AS met on April 12, 2006. In attendance were L. Scoville, G. Burke, L. Trubitt, J. Bartow (staff), D. Peterson, K. Trent & A. Boehm. Prof. M. Earlywine, unable to attend, provided written comments in advance.

The sole item of business was an examination of a student petition received from the School of Business. It is proposed by the student and strongly supported by the School that an exception on the standard 30% limit of advanced standing credits applicable toward a second masters degree be granted. In this particular case the petitioning student is a UAlbany MBA degree holder who is currently pursuing a second masters degree in the MS Accounting program. The MS Accounting program is a 60-credit program. The standard 30% limit on advanced standing credit would amount to 18 credits. The petition seeks GAC approval for 26 credits from the MBA program to apply toward the MS program. 23 or the proposed 26 credits are from specifically required courses in the MS program that were completed as part of the MBA program.

After a thorough discussion noting the student focused support from the School, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend GAC approval of the petition. In addition, the Committee asked that the GAC action include the solicitation from the School of Business of a proposal addressing this advanced standing issue on an on-going basis, given the overlap of curricular offerings.

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: GAC Committee on Educational Policy and Procedures (CEP&P)

Date: April 26, 2006

Subj.: Report and Recommendation

The GAC CEP&P met on April 11, 2006. In attendance were R. Irving, M. Casserly, J. Bartow (staff), S. Levine and L. Kranich.

The sole item of business was an examination of policy pertaining to the doctoral research tool requirement as requested by Graduate Dean Marjorie Pryse. Existing policy prohibits credits earned in course work completed as all or part of the doctoral research tool requirement from being additionally eligible for application toward program credit requirements. Various programs have suggested that this prohibition should be revised, as it likely dated back to a period when general research tool/skill courses were expected to be offered outside the specific discipline. In light of the fact that many programs now integrate the development of research skills within discipline based study/courses, it is proposed that the applicability of associate course credits should be a program matter, not necessarily prohibited by campus policy. The committee voted unanimously (4-0-0) to recommend a change in the existing policy, striking such prohibitive text and making a minor correction in the doctoral degree program listing, as detailed on the attachment.

The Committee requested that program directors be consulted on the proposed change before the GAC considered the matter. This was handled administratively by the Graduate Office (additional attachment) with supportive comments uniformly received in reply.

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To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Sally Friedman, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: April 25, 2006

Subject: Report and Recommendations

CC&I members - S. Friedman, D. Parker, G. Pogarsky, A. Pomerantz, J. Reynolds, J. Bartow (staff) and F. Bolton (staff) – electronically considered and discussed the following item of business. B. Thiel was out of town and unavailable.

College of Arts and Sciences – Request for program revisions to the Department of Chemistry’s admission and degree requirements

The Department of Chemistry proposed eliminating the need to submit Chemistry Subject GRE scores as an admission requirement. This change is consistent with other College of Arts and Sciences physical science departments’ admission practices. Chm 524, Seminar in Chemistry: Searching Chemical Literature, is to be eliminated as a degree requirement. Instead the retrieval of chemical information and oral presentation skills acquired in Chm 524 will be tied to the major field exam for M.S. students and the research proposal for Ph.D. students. Chm 526, Chm 544, Chm 570 and Chm 561 are to be added to Chm 511A or B as choices for the fulfillment of the research tool requirement. An expansion of core course choices for both the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees was requested. The three required core courses (Chm 520A, 525A and Chm 535A) are to be joined by three additional courses (Chm 525B, Chm 535B, and Chm 544). The student is now to choose three of the six courses listed. If Chm 544 is a core choice, it can not be used to fulfill the research tool requirement as well. HBms 644, Fundamental of Pharmacology, is presently required for the

M.S. in Applied Chemistry degree. However, it is not taught regularly by the School of Public Health. The Chemistry Department proposed to offer Chm 632, Special Topics in Biochemistry: Pharmacology, as its replacement.

While discussing the proposal the Committee raised two questions. The first question asked if the expansion of the core requirements would create classes that were unusually small and split students up so much that there would be no potential for forming any kind of cohort. The Chemistry Department responded that the core course expansion would actually increase rather than decrease the class size. The more specialized core courses would be offered every two years and so increase the number of students that would want or need the course. In addition the two-year cycle would enable students to complete essential courses in their specific research areas within the first two years of study. The Committee raised a second question that asked if students would miss out on any kind of “core” under the new proposal. The Chemistry Department replied: “No, students are not missing out because there are still 'cores' in place which have been modified slightly. Since the sub-fields of chemistry now cross over areas far more than decades ago, and the faculty we are hiring are researching in many sub disciplines, e.g.. biochemistry, physical biochemistry, bioorganic chemistry, we must update what constitutes 'core' courses. By giving students the option to choose from among a predetermined set of courses, we are maintaining the structure of core course offerings and, at the same time, assuring both the students and their research advisors that the students will be receiving the appropriate foundation for their particular areas of research.”

Satisfied with the answers received and with the proposal, the Committee voted (4-0-0) via email to endorse the program revision and to move it forward to the GAC for further action and approval.