

Graduate Academic Council
2001 – 2002

Minutes of the Meeting of February 15, 2002
Approved by the Council on April 5, 2002

In attendance: C. MacDonald (Chair), J. Bartow (Staff), L. Raffalovich, D. Shub, L. Trubitt, M. Gallant, R. Irving, S. Nagy-Zekmi, H. Charalambous & J. Baez

Unable to attend: L. Niu, V. Ng, C. Smith, P. Brusoe & J. Mumpower

1. Minutes from the GAC meeting of January 22, 2002 were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Council with one amendment, that being the corrected spelling of Professor Raffalovich's name.
2. Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies – J. Bartow for J. Mumpower
 - a. The NLRB hearings pertaining to the potential unionization of Graduate Assistants funded through the Research Foundation continue.
 - b. Consultation with the deans regarding dissertation 899 policy and candidacy are nearing conclusion.
 - c. Mission review funds for graduate assistant stipend supplements: Copies of the report to SUNY regarding the use of these funds were distributed to Council members as promised.
3. Chair's Report – C. MacDonald
 - a. The Senate Office has determined that the establishment of specific GAC committees is not something address in Senate By-Laws. It is likely that the specific committees were formed by GAC action many years ago. This matter relates to the initiative to consider revisions to Senate By-Laws.
 - b. The Council has received notice of a symposium to be held at UAlbany in 4/8/02 entitled "What Scholars Need to Know to Publish Today: Digital Writing and Access for Readers." In light of pending consideration by the Council of policies regarding electronic theses & dissertations, this symposium is brought to the attention of all Council members and particularly the members of the GAC Committee on Educational Policies & Procedures (D. Shub, Chair).
4. Report of the GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction – M. Gallant

The report from the Committee meeting of 2/11/02 (appended below) was introduced by Chairperson M. Gallant and discussed by the Council. The report was accepted by unanimous vote of the Council members present, with all recommended items therein approved.
5. Report of the GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing – R. Irving

The report from the Committee meeting of 2/11/02 (appended below) was introduced by Chairperson R. Irving and discussed by the Council. The report was accepted by unanimous vote of the Council members present, with all recommended items therein approved.
6. Other New Business

GAC Chairperson C. MacDonald indicated the Senate Executive Committee seeks to hear from the Council regarding possible By-Law revisions by early April. She asked that current GAC

committee chairs (D. Shub, M. Gallant & R. Irving) join with her to form an ad-hoc group to study the GAC By-Laws and bring recommendations to the full Council.

Meeting Adjourned.

The next meeting of the GAC is scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2002 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. The location will be determined and conveyed with a reminder/agenda for the meeting.

END OF GAC 2/15/02 MINUTES

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Mary Gallant, Chair
GAC Committee on Curriculum & Instruction (CC&I)

Date: February 14, 2002

Subj.: Report and Recommendations

The CC&I met on 2/11/02. In attendance were: V. Ng, C. Ellis, K. Quinn, R.-M. Weber, K. Reinhold, P. Brusoe, M. Gallant (Chair), and J. Bartow (staff). L. Niu and L. Raffalovich were unable to attend. Proposals were review and are recommended to the GAC for action:

1. M.S. Program in Biomedical Sciences

It is proposed that one semester of BMS601 (3 of 6 credits) be dropped from the curriculum and students be required to take either BMS 500 OR 504b (each 3 credits), not both as currently required. These six credits of adjustment in the 36 credits required in the program are to be offset by the additional of 6 additional thesis research credits. These changes are proposed to properly reflect the laboratory emphasis of the program of study. The Committee examined this proposal extensively and now unanimously recommends its approval to the GAC.

2. M.S. Program in Environmental Health & Toxicology

It is proposed that 3 credits of Lab Rotation, EHT690, be eliminated from the program and additionally that elective credit requirements be reduced from 9 to 6 credits. These six credits of adjustment in the 36 credits required in the program are to be offset by the additional of 6 additional thesis research credits. These changes are proposed to properly reflect the laboratory emphasis of the program of study. The Committee examined this proposal extensively and now unanimously recommends its approval to the GAC.

3. M.S. Educational Psychology

It is proposed that the curriculum be modified to explicitly require the completion of a culminating project through enrollment in EPSY 680, 697 or 699. An additional minor change in wording is proposed in course plans for individuals who will be seeking teacher certification. The Committee had some initial questions/concerns regarding the teacher certification "track," but received satisfactory clarification from the division director, such that the proposal is now recommended to the GAC for approval.

4. Ph.D. Program in Environmental Health & Toxicology

It is proposed that departmental requirements for admission to doctoral candidacy be amended to delete reference to the completion of all "research study." This requested change will allow students to be elevated to doctoral candidacy at the point when they satisfactorily complete course

and seminar study (38 credits minimum), receiving the desired boost in stature to that of “doctoral candidate.” The overall credits required to earn the degree, including research credits, remains unchanged at 66. The Committee unanimously recommends approval to the GAC.

5. Ph. D. Program in Biomedical Sciences

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6. M.A. Program in Communication

It is proposed that the course “Communication Theory & Practice” be re-numbered to COM502 and added to the curriculum as a requirement. This will boost overall program credit requirements from 30 to 33 credits. The Committee unanimously recommends approval to the GAC.

7. M.A. & Ph.D. Programs in Philosophy

It is proposed that PHI500 be revised and excluded from degree credit requirements in both programs. The new PHI 500 “Teaching Practicum” will be available as a support course for teaching assistants and other interested in teaching, but will not be considered as applicable to curricular requirements of the Philosophy programs. The Committee unanimously recommends approval to the GAC.

8. B.A./M.A. Program in Women’s Studies

The Department of Women’s Studies proposes the establishment of a BA/MA program linking together undergraduate and graduate study for qualified individuals. All current M.A. program requirements will be required in the combined program. Applicants for admission to the combined program will be required to meet standard University GPA (3.20) requirements for entry into such programs. 10 of the 32 required graduate credits will be considered as applicable to undergraduate degree requirements. The Committee unanimously recommends approval to the GAC and, if like action emerges from the UAC, that a bill to establish the program be co-sponsored and introduced for action by the Senate.

END OF GAC C&I REPORT

To: Graduate Academic Council

From: Richard Irving, Chair
GAC Committee on Admissions & Academic Standing (CAAS)

Date: February 14, 2002

Subj: Report and Recommendations

The CAAS met on 2/11/02. In attendance were: M. Brown, L. Trubitt, H. Charalambous, A. Boehm, C. Smith, R. Irving (Chair) and Jon Bartow (staff). Five items of business were considered and are reported below.

1. The Department of Mathematics, in conjunction with a student applicant, has petitioned the Council for an exception to campus regulations that require applicants to possess a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in order to be eligible to for graduate admission. The applicant, from France, will have the equivalent of three years of U.S. Study at the conclusion of this academic year. Our Mathematics faculty find this student, currently here as a visiting undergraduate student yet enrolled in numerous 500 level courses, as having "ability, mathematical maturity and performance" at the doctoral level. An additional year's worth of study in France will not broaden his background, but rather be more specialized study in mathematics. It is propose that the best situation for both the student and the University at Albany would be to facilitate such advanced study here. Given the circumstances and the enthusiastic support of the faculty, the Committee unanimously recommends that the exception be allowed, with one proviso – that credit requirements of our graduate programs may not be satisfied by work completed prior to graduate admission. That is, the student will need to complete 30 post-admission graduate credits for the M.A or 60 for the Ph.D. Courses completed while in undergraduate status here or elsewhere may not fulfill credit requirements of the graduate programs.
2. A student has petitioned the Council for a retroactive exception to the requirement that he possess an undergraduate degree prior to being eligible for graduate degree credit here at UAlbany. The student was conditionally admitted to begin master's study here in Summer 2001. Due to regrettable circumstances, the receipt of the undergraduate degree from another SUNY unit was delayed until December 2001. By that time he had completed 24 graduate credits here with a 3.72 GPA. He has been prevented from registering further pending the outcome of the petition. Our faculty has endorsed the exception. In light of this support AND since he was allowed to enroll through the Fall 2001 term, coupled with his current possession of the undergraduate degree, the Committee unanimously recommends approval to the GAC.
3. A student has petitioned the Council for permission to apply a 500 level course completed here prior to graduate admission toward his current graduate program requirements. The course was not completed as part of any undergraduate degree requirements and he was apparently led to believe by our faculty that the outcome sought by the petition was a given. In light of the circumstances and the strong support of the faculty, the Committee recommends approval to the GAC.
4. A graduate student currently enrolled in both the MPA and MBA programs is seeking authorization of approved curriculum plans that involve overlap of courses applicable to both programs. In both units his program of study has been strongly endorsed by the faculties. University regulations are murky on the issue of credit that may overlap among the programs. The rationale presented and endorsed was convincing to the Committee that an accommodation is warranted. The members unanimously recommend approval of the request to the GAC.
5. The Director of the M.A. Liberal Studies Program seeks authorization on behalf of a student to allow for curricular substitution of GLS680 "Research Project" by PLN694L. It is documented that the research project engaged under the Planning rubric would have fulfilled the MALS requirements for a "30-page paper with a multidisciplinary approach to a liberal studies topic." The Committee unanimously recommends that the GAC approve the substitution.