

**Graduate Academic Council
2005 – 2006**

Minutes of the Council meeting of March 24, 2006
Approved by the Council on April 3, 2006

In attendance: D. Byrd, E. Redkey, F. Bolton (staff), G. Burke, J. Bartow (staff), L.-A. McNutt, M. Pryse, M. Rodriguez (Chair), S. Chinnam, S. Friedman & S. Levine

Guests: B. Kirkwood and N. Persily, School of Public Health
J. Mumpower, Rockefeller College

GAC members unable to attend: L. Kranich, O. Ongiti, & S. Maloney

1. Minutes of the GAC meeting of 3/3/06 were considered and approved without amendment (9-0-0).
2. Dean's Report – M. Pryse
 - We are in the recruitment/admission season. Fourteen Presidential Fellow offers have been extended along with commitments for some college scholars top-off funding.
 - The Underrepresented Fellowship Program has been revised and renamed to become the Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program. An informational meeting is forthcoming.
 - The Academic Integrity Task Force Report is being transmitted to the Provost. It is expected that the Provost will refer it to UAC and GAC for governance review.
 - GSO – Lizzie Redkey, GSO President and GAC member, upon invitation from Dean Pryse, reported that a referendum to raise the GSO fee and an on-line election are both forthcoming.
 - Organizational Studies PhD Program – Jon Bartow, on behalf of the Provost, briefed the Council on plans to temporarily suspend admissions while a program evaluation is conducted, likely this upcoming summer and fall. The evaluation and future program plans will be reviewed with governance.
3. Chair's Report – M. Rodriguez
 - The Standards for Social Work Education Senate Bill was approved by the Senate.

4. Committee on Curriculum & Instruction Report – S. Friedman

Professor Friedman summarized the one action item being reported to the GAC for action (report appended to the end of these minutes), establishment of a new three-course elective track in the evening MBA program: New Venture Development. After a very brief discussion, the Council voted to accept the CC&I report and in doing so approve the proposed curriculum amendment. (9-0-0)

5. BA/MA Sociology / Public Affairs & Policy

Professor Mumpower introduced the proposal to establish this combined bachelors/masters program. It follows the structure of similar combined program offerings already in place. Professor McNutt commented about the inclusion of 600 level courses. Professor Byrd inquired about expected student numbers, to which Prof. Mumpower indicated the anticipated enrollments in the combined program

would be small in number. The Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal and co-sponsor a bill (with UAC pending its action) to the Senate for program establishment. (9-0-0)

6. Associate Dean of the School of Public Health, Nancy Persily, introduced the proposal to establish a dual-degree, multi-institutional program, combining the MS Bioethics program offered by Albany Medical College and The Graduate College of Union University with the MPH offered by UAlbany's School of Public Health. She described the increasing focus and importance of Bioethics in matters of Public Health. The proposed combined program draws upon strengths of both individual programs and institutions. Enrollment projections are low, but there is expected to be an enrichment effect toward other students at each institution as well. Prof. Byrd commented that the proposal was very convincing. The Council voted to approve the proposal and co-sponsor a bill (with UPC pending its action) to the Senate for program establishment. (8-0-1). Prof. McNutt abstained, as she was involved with program proposal approved within the School of Public Health.
7. S. Chinnam raised a topic that had surfaced on the Research Council on which he also serves. Concerns were apparently expressed by the council chair about an external report addressing program strengths and/or scholarly productivity that had been received from a firm named Academic Analytics. Dean Pryse explained the Academic Analytics methodology and background of campus involvement with that organization. Too, she drew reference to the federal NRC survey/study and its limitations. Discussion among GAC members and Dean Pryse continued for a while on the topic. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

END OF GAC 3/24/06 MINUTES

To: Graduate Academic Council

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

Date: March 20, 2006

Subject: Report and Recommendations

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

School of Business – Request for program revisions to the MBA Evening program

The evening M.B.A. curriculum is structured with core courses, three electives and Bus 698. A student may decide to complete an elective track within a specialized field of study by choosing two of their three allowed electives from those specified in an elective track plus take the Research project specified for the specialized field (i.e. Fin 698, Mkt 698, Itm 698 or Mgt 698 instead of Bus 698). These three courses then constitute a track. Presently the five tracks offered are: Marketing, Finance, Change Management, Information Technology Management and Taxation. The School of Business asked that a new track called New Venture Development be added. Similar to the other tracks, students are to chose two courses from Mgt 675 (Entrepreneurship); Fin 604 (Topics in Finance – New Venture Finance); and Mkt 602 (Topics in Marketing – Marketing Entrepreneurship: Creating Customers for New Ventures); and Mgt 698 (Research Topics in Management).

As this new track is structurally in keeping with the other tracks offered and expands the specialized fields of study, the Committee voted via email (5-0-0) to endorse the revision suggested and move it forward to the GAC for further action and approval.