

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting Held March 16, 2009
(Approved April 20, 2009)

Present: John Abbott, Bill Brewer, Joseph Cazier, Keith Davis, Pollyanne Frantz, Sammie Garner, Dru Henson, Holly Hirst, Marie Hoepfl, Edelma Huntley, Mike Kernodle, Jim Killacky, Nina Jo Moore (for Glenda Treadaway), Jenny Primm, Julie Taubman, Chris Thaxton, James Westerman

Absent/Excused: Susan McCracken, Nancy Schneeloch-Bingham, Lynn Stallworth, Peg Werts

Absent/Unexcused: Charles Duke, Randy Edwards, Dave Haney, Lisa Holliday (for Neva Specht), Seaton Tarrant

Dean Huntley called the meeting to order.

1. It was moved (Moore) and seconded (Kernodle) that the minutes of the February 16 meeting be approved as distributed. Motion carried.
2. Reports/Announcements from the Dean – Edelma Huntley
 - Faculty members (full-time, long term) can apply to the Graduate Research Associates Mentoring Program (GRAM). Each associate gets \$9,000 plus \$1000 for research or professional expenses. Research associates can be held in conjunction with scholarships and fellowships and can be maintained up to two years. The faculty member can apply every three years. Deadline is April 15.
 - Handout: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Stimulus package. All proposals must be submitted through ORSP. Meredith Curcio will schedule ARRA information sessions.
 - NSF has \$15M for the development of Professional Science Master's degrees.
3. Reports/Announcements from Graduate Studies – Holly Hirst
 - Mid-March enrollment snapshots:
 - Paid degree applications: 133 in 2008; 1405 in 2009
 - International: 33 in 2008; 39 in 2009
 - Non-NC residents: 429 in 2008; 498 in 2009
 - On-campus enrollment: 997 in 2008; 1274 in 2009
 - Adding to the Graduate Council website include
 - links to current topics of discussion
 - procedure to submit curriculum proposals. Online submission should be available in 6-9 months.
 - minutes are archived back to Spring 2005
 - updated information for assistantships and tuition scholarships with sample forms

4. Reports/Announcements from Sponsored Programs – Susan McCracken
 - February submissions are down in dollars by 43% (largest reduction in a long time) but with the same number of PIs.
 - February awards are down 5% but with more PIs.
 - ASU received a congressionally-directed grant in excess of \$700,000 for mountain grown wines and viticulture.
 - UNC-GA allocated \$98,000 to ASU to purchase two pieces of equipment for two untenured faculty.

5. Reports/Announcements from the Proposal Development Team – Pollyanne Frantz
 - The FY2009 Appropriations bill was not passed until 2-3 weeks ago.
 - FIPSE Comprehensive program will have money this year to be used for competitive awards – possibly up to 100.
 - March report from the Proposal Development Team:
http://www.graduate.appstate.edu/facultystaff/council/agendas/mar09/Frantz_GC_Mar_09.pdf
 - Upcoming events:
 - Fundamental of Successful Grant Writing: Tips from a Funding Agency’s Perspective” workshops presented by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center (2-4 p.m. March 26. Repeats on March 27 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
 - Community of Science Expertise Profile Enrollment Drive (March-May 2009)
 - National Endowment for the Humanities proposal development consultations (March 19-20)
 - “Life Sciences Proposal Writing Workshop for Novices” (tentative date May 12)
 - Grants Resource Center web conferences (watch for announcements)

6. New Business – Academic Policies Committee

Curriculum Proposals: Foreign Languages and Literature

FLL 08-10. Add SNH 5028, Seminar in Spanish Linguistics

FLL 08-11. Add SNH 5075: Migration in Literature and Film for inclusion in the regular offerings of the DFLL M.A in Romance Languages - Spanish, Spanish Teaching-, and Spanish Graduate Certificate

FLL 09-12. Change program offerings by adding SNH 5028 and SNH 5075 to the regular course offerings of the DFLL MA in Romance Languages – Spanish, Spanish Teaching, and Spanish Graduate Certificate

MOTION: Approve Foreign Languages Proposals FLL-09-12, FLL-08-10, FLL-08-11, with the following change: the effective date on proposal FLL-09-12 will be Fall 2009. That proposal is a program change (rather than a course change), and as such can only be effective in Fall semesters. The other two proposals add new courses, which can be effective Spring 2009.

VOTE: Motion carried. No opposition. No abstentions.

Curriculum Proposals: Biology

BIO 30-08-09. A request is made to increase the credit hours of BIO 4601 from 3 to 4, and to designate the course as a junior level writing course in Biology. The increased lecture and laboratory time will allow for new approaches to the study of this very diverse field.

BIO 31-08-09. A request is made to have BIO 5601 increase from 3 to 4 credit hrs. The increased lecture and laboratory time will allow for new approaches to the study of this very diverse field.

The Academic Policies Committee did not make a recommendation on these proposals for the following reason:

- The two proposals (BIO 30-08-09 and 31-08-09) request that a dual-listed course be changed slightly in content and increased in hours. This request is similar to several other proposals we have considered from Biology, and the content/hour change is not a concern.
- The 4000-level course is also being recommended as a "junior level writing course" in the new General Education curriculum. There are concerns about a course formally designated as junior level being dual-listed with a graduate course. The committee suggests that the courses be decoupled, in which case the 5000-level course change in content and hours would be acceptable.

The proposals were withdrawn by the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office.

7. The above brings up a larger issue of counting a senior capstone courses for graduate credit. These courses are a culmination of all undergraduate coursework applied at the graduate level. There was agreement to leave the decision to the discipline and occasionally allow a capstone course to count for graduate credit if it adds value to the graduate experience.
8. Faculty Development Committee – Bill Brewer

Feedback indicates that the timing issue is reasonable to apply for Graduate Faculty membership during reappointment, promotion and tenure actions. Discussion continued on Associate and Full membership.

MOTION: It was moved (Killacky) and seconded (Thaxton) that there be Affiliate and Member levels of Graduate Faculty. Dr. Killacky called for the question.

VOTE: Motion carried. No opposition. No abstentions.

Dr. Hirst will revise the Graduate Faculty Membership document to be voted on at the April Graduate Council meeting. Dr. Carey will advise whether the document must go before Faculty Senate for a vote.

8. Student Affairs Committee – Sammie Garner. No report.
9. Other

There is a proposal to change the calendar for the University so that Convocation Day has no classes before 5:00 p.m. and University Research Day (April) has no classes on that date. Concerns include

- cancellation of one day could cancel an entire week of graduate classes;
- graduate classes miss instructional time due to holidays and breaks;
- convocation activities cater to undergraduates;
- cancellation of classes does not necessarily increase participation; and
- graduate students are traditionally on campus only for instructional time.

MOTION: It was moved (Cazier) and seconded (Moore) that the Graduate Council go on record to exempt graduate students from class cancellations until these concerns are addressed to the satisfaction of the Graduate Council. Dr. Killacky called for the question.

VOTE: Motion carried 9:1.

Dr. Hirst will draft a statement from this Council stating there is not enough information about graduate classes on these days, and that unless these changes involve significant academic learning outcomes for graduate students then graduate courses should not be cancelled on these days. Dr. Huntley will bring this statement to Dean's Council on Wednesday.

10. Motion to adjourn (Moore).