

Graduate Council Minutes
November 16, 2009
387 JET
Approved February 22, 2010

Present: Edelma Huntley, Susan Davies, Dave Haney, Dru Henson, Holly Hirst, Susan McCracken, Glenda Treadaway, Jenny Primm, Doris Bazzini, Chris Thaxton, Keith Davis, Jim Killacky, Joseph Cazier, Scott Collier, Marie Hoepfl, Martin Root, Nancy Schneeloch-Bingham, John Abbott, Rachel Stratten (sub for Serena Heinz).

Guests: Phillip Ardoin, Brian Ellison.

Excused: Tom Fisher, Julie Taubman, Pollyanne Frantz, Meredith Whitfield, Neva Specht, Alecia Jackson, Lynn Stallworth, Peter Villanova, Janice Voss.

Absent: Charles Duke, Randy Edwards, William Pelto.

Call to order, introductions, and welcome – Edelma Huntley

Dr. Huntley called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. She introduced two special guests: Dr. Brian Ellison and Dr. Phillip Ardoin, Department of Government and Justice Studies.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2009 Meeting

Dr. Cazier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Dr. Killacky seconded that motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed with no objections.

Reports/Announcements from the Dean – Edelma Huntley

- (1) The UNC Sponsored Program Activity FY 2009 report was distributed, and Appalachian is 1st in number of proposals funded, but 3rd among the seven master's schools on awards. We need to determine how to encourage our faculty and staff to "go after the big money." Suggestions are welcome on how to encourage this. The average award (\$69K) was lower than all schools except Western.
- (2) There is a new planning process in place for program development. This new process, which includes review by disciplinary panels as well as an education committee of the Board of Governors, is generating a lot of questions and concerns at GA. For example, the new PSM proposed by UNC-W was sent back to be redesigned, despite earlier encouragement from GA for PSM development. It appears that there will be strong resistance from the BoG to new graduate programs of all forms. We are meeting to discuss the PhD in rural clinical psychology next week and try to plan our submission in light of this information.

Both Dr. Treadaway and Dr. Haney shared their experiences regarding the disciplinary panel process and indicated that the main point appears to be concern about the BoG committing funding to new programs. UNC GA is trying to help the Board prioritize. There are two questions that really need to be addressed: What criteria are they using to prioritize? Where is this concern really originating, GA or BoG?

Reports/Announcements from Graduate Studies – Holly Hirst

- (1) The 2009 Summer and Fall admissions and Fall enrollment data are available online at: <http://www.graduate.appstate.edu/facultystaff/factbook/>. We processed almost 3000 summer/fall applications and our total fall enrollment has topped 2100.
- (2) The PSM grant is almost complete and will be submitted on Friday; we are limited in what we can request, and most of the funding will go toward stipends and cost of education for 23 students in physical science and technology.
- (3) The Faculty Senate provided the Chancellor with a number of questions to answer at last Monday's meeting, and because a number of them involved IRB and graduate student funding, Tim Ludwig (IRB Chair), Julie Taubman (Research Protections), and Holly Hirst attended to provide answers to any questions. Ludwig explained the changes related to IRB. Hirst provided an overview of how funding is allocated by the Graduate School for assistantships and tuition scholarships each year and where the funding comes from.

Reports/Announcements from Sponsored Programs -- Susan McCracken

- (1) The usual month end and year to date reports are available online. We are up significantly in submissions and awards from this time last year.
October 09 Awards: <http://www.orsp.appstate.edu/awards/award10/oct09award.html>
- (2) In an effort to minimize the problems associated with non-payment by sponsors, we are working with the university attorneys to develop standard contract wording regarding front-loading the payment of contracts by private business and industry. We have several sponsors currently in default, and we need to establish policies to minimize our financial risk. The auditor is also working on procedures to catch non-payment issues earlier so that we do not get stuck with the bill and so that when it does occur, the burden doesn't fall on one program or department. If we can get templates in place, we may be able to speed up negotiations as well.

Reports/Announcements from the Proposal Development Team – Edelma Huntley

- (1) All RDOs are working with faculty on various aspects of proposal development
- (2) Fourteen faculty and staff attended the GRC NIH AREA conference on 11.5.09 -- big changes coming to the AREA (direct costs raised from \$150,000 to \$300,000) and other NIH funding opportunities in terms of peer review criteria and proposal formatting (reduced page numbers, etc.)
- (3) GRC NSF MRI web conference scheduled for p.m. of 12.17.09. If a competition will take place (I'll be getting the word out this week for the internal competition in the event that there is an actual competition).
- (4) Several Spring 2010 events to be posted to our web site this week.

New Business

Student Committee - Keith Davis

The student committee is meeting at 9 am on Thursday to select the Domer, Zigli, and Lawrence Award recipients.

Faculty Committee - Marie Hoepfl

We will be meeting soon to look at issues related to policies and procedures for graduate faculty officers and meetings.

Academic Policies Committee

(1) Proposals from Government and Justice Studies

MOTION from the committee: Approve GJS #1, 2 and 4 as submitted (add new courses on Washington at Work and Seminar in Political Behavior, and add these courses to list of suggested electives in the current concentrations in the PS MA degree). Motion passed with no objections.

The academic policies committee chose not to construct a motion for GJS #3 (add a new concentration to the PS MA degree) - The subcommittee asked that the program to provide some rationale for the difference in structure for the Environmental Politics and Policy Analysis concentration as compared to the other concentrations, specifically, the difference in hours for the thesis/non-thesis options (the existing concentrations require 30 hours with thesis and 36 hour without; the new concentration requires 36 under either option). Also, the question was raised asking how the internship will be different for this concentration compared to the other two concentrations.

MOTION (Dr. Hoepfl): Move to approve this proposal. Dr. Killacky seconded.

Dr. Ellison and Dr. Ardoin responded to the questions, noting that because the program was multi-disciplinary (PS and Econ), the faculty felt strongly that the thesis option should also require 36 hours of coursework. Students planning to enter the workforce are the primary audience, so the internship is required, and given the strong MPA internship pipeline we do not envision difficulties with placement.

Another question was asked (Dr. Hoepfl and Dr. Root): Can you please speak to the breadth of the concentration course choices, many of which (for example all the seminars) do not appear to involve environmental or economic topics? Dr. Ellison and Dr. Ardoin explained that when the seminars are used as electives in this concentration the courses will use environmental issues as one of the themes.

The question was called. The motion passed with no objections. (NOTE: The layout of the program in the bulletin will vary from that specified, and there are two typos in the course titles that will be fixed.)

(2) Proposals from Physics and Astronomy:

MOTION from the committee: Approve PHY AST - F09-006 as submitted (add a professional science colloquium) and PHY AST - F09-004 and F09-005 (add a dual-listed courses in sensors and transducers). Provision: In looking at the syllabus there is only a 10% grade difference based on the completion of a report or project by the graduate students. There is no additional information provided describing this requirement. Will this report or project be research based, i.e., require additional independent reading and/or experimentation as would usually be expected of graduate students?

Dr. Chris Thaxton answered questions related to the proposal. He indicated that the final report assignment for graduate students in a dual listed course is more intensive than would be expected of undergraduates, but the real difference resides in the laboratory experience. Undergraduates assemble components into working modules. Graduate Students also design and test components. This adds a great deal of complexity and time to the lab experience, undergraduates spending 2-3 hours and graduate students often spending more than 8 hours on a lab. The motion passed with no objections.

The academic policies committee chose not to construct a motion for PHY AST - F09-007 for the following reasons. The proposal made changes to the current Engineering Physics concentrations. Of concern was the increased number of dual-listed courses in the PSM concentration (the other concentration is not of concern). This proposal would change the PSM concentration to require many (16-20 hours) more than the current 12 hour limit for dual-listed courses. The question was asked about whether there was a plan to decouple the dual-listed courses as the program continues to grow?

MOTION (Dr. Killacky): Move to approve this proposal. Dr. Cazier seconded.

Dr. Thaxton responded to the question: The original PSM had three courses that were dual-listed and now has four (because of PHY AST - F09-004 and F09-005 above). This is a common feature of PSMs because of their interdisciplinary and survey of science nature. They are not hard-core science degrees; they are more managerial in nature. This program is in the top 13 nationwide for master's programs in Engineering Physics and is the only one that is an engineering oriented PSM. That external validation should be weighed heavily in consideration of these proposals, and the program should be judged on the quality demonstrated through assessment.

Dr. Hoepfl expressed great concern with the large number of dual-listed courses. Dr. Bazzini expressed concern as well and suggested that the Council consider allowing new programs some period of time to reduce dependence on dual listed courses.

Dr. Treadaway questioned whether we should be applying the same rules to professional programs as we do with more traditional research master's. Dr. Root, Dr. Thaxton, and Dr. Davis both concurred that this is definitely a different type of master's program.

Dr. Killacky called the question. Dr. Hoepfl objected, which caused a vote to be required before the vote could proceed. The motion to allow the vote proceed (which required a 2/3 majority), passed 8 in favor, 4 opposed.

The original motion (approve proposal PHY AST - F09-007 – make changes to the Engineering Physics requirements) passed 9 in favor, 3 opposed.

Old Business: Dual listed courses – postponed until January

Adjournment occurred at 5:10 pm