

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2016, 1:24-2:43 P.M.
Sage Hall 2210

Present: John Beam, Anna Filipova, Karen Gibson, Fredi Giesler, Lori Halstead, Tonya Hameister, Bailey Hermann, Phan Hong, Toni House, Deb Matulle, Ann Mickelson, Bonnie Nickasch, Alan Saginak, Bob Stelzer, Nathan Stuart, Judy Westphal, Lori Worm, Greg Wypiszynski

Excused: Elizabeth Alderton, Kathleen Bauer, Pete Brown, Eric Brunsell, Jamie Ceman, Lisa, Dorn, Steve Dunn, Dale Feinauer, Marci Hoffman, Christopher Iwuji, Erik Krohn, Eric Kuennen, Brandon Miller, Karl Nollenberger, Christine Roth, Connie Schuster, Ashley Thompson, Cathy Toll, Mary Weeden

The meeting was called to order at 1:24 p.m. by Phan Hong.

- A. Motion to approve the Graduate Council minutes of November 3 as written/Second: Fredi Giesler/Alan Saginak. Approved (10-0-4).
- B. Motion to approve the Consent Reports/Second: Judy Westphal/John Beam. Approved (12-0-2).
- C. Curriculum Approval Committee:
 1. Motion to approve the Curriculum Approval Committee's proposed timeline/Second: Karen Gibson/Fredi Giesler. In an effort to provide the Curriculum Approval Committee adequate time for true oversight of graduate curriculum and to discourage weekend reviews in an attempt to respect committee member's time, the committee proposed a deadline of noon on the Monday of a Graduate Council meeting week. Flexibility with urgent actions will be available upon request to the committee. Approved (13-0-1).
 2. Motion to approve the following actions/Second: Karen Gibson/Judy Westphal. Approved (13-0-1).
 - a. Biology: Notice of Intent, Professional Master's Program: Bob Stelzer explained the new terminal degree program. Business courses will tailor to employment in the private sector.
 - b. Public Administration: Health Agency Emphasis
 - c. Public Administration: General Public Administration Emphasis
 3. Motion to approve the Public Administration: Remove 790 and 792 from Core Courses/Second: Karen Gibson/Fredi Giesler. Discussion ensued. There was concern that students will be without a thesis option, and more description of what a student can do in the capstone course is needed. The change will not impact the requirements of the program, as the capstone includes research. Reasons for this change include (1) student confusion of the culminating experience options (thesis is not popular), (2) capstones allow students to graduate sooner, (3) three faculty members are in Public Administration (one planning to retire), so they are advising thesis courses on their own time, and (4) it is difficult to track learning outcomes data with thesis, but can better track learning outcomes with capstones. The Curriculum Approval Committee's recommendation was to keep the thesis option available for two years to monitor student need, and faculty have the option to deny a thesis request if they cannot fit it in their schedule. Motion Not Approved (1-11-2).
- D. Executive Committee: The permissions to edit the Graduate Faculty definition and the Graduate Council Chair position description documents were not provided to Graduate Council members in Google Drive. Both were tabled for the February meeting.
- E. Pyle Graduate Scholarship: A committee is needed to change the criteria, so that it is applicable to the type of students in our programs present day. Also Graduate Council members could not access this document in Google Drive for editing. Discussion points for changes include: (1) make it available to part-time students, and (2) clean-up the wording. The Distinguished Awards Committee will meet to refine the criteria and deadlines.

- F. Greg Wypiszynski will make data available for STEP projects, and will review if funding is available for spring.
- G. The Dean of Graduate Studies search has been confirmed by the Provost, and will commence once Jenny Watson's replacement begins in January.

Motion to adjourn 2:43pm.

Lori Halstead, Recorder.

Copies to: Graduate Council, Provost Lane Earns, Deans, OSA President, Office of Graduate Studies Staff