

University Graduate Council Minutes

Tuesday September 29, 2015

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Sherrick 114

Council in Attendance:

Alan Dyer, *Chair* (Agriculture)

Marc Guillian (Business)

John Seifert (Health & Human Development)

Michael Babcock (Faculty Senate)

Jean Shreffler-Grant (Nursing)

John Borkowski, *Vice Chair* (Sciences)

Timothy LeCain (Letters)

Christopher Livingston (Architecture)

Ahmed Al-Kaisy (Engineering)

Karlene Hoo (The Graduate School)

Also in Attendance:

Amanda Brown (The Graduate School)

Geraldine Govaerts (Office of International Programs)

Lauren Cerretti (The Graduate School)

Absent:

Ann Ewbank (Education)

Meeting started at 1:05 p.m.

September 15, 2015 minutes

- Chair Dyer called for a motion to approve. Babcock motioned, Guillian second.
 - Unanimous approval

Announcements

- Updates on Faculty Senate issues (Babcock)
 - EDU 606 Mixed Methods Research Design in Education—new course for approval will be on next Faculty Senate agenda (just received today)
 - Course numbering guidelines feedback: presented to Faculty Senate last meeting and no feedback yet to report. Does not think it is an issue for FS.

Old Business

- Graduate Course Numbering Guidelines, update
 - Dean Hoo spoke w Associate Provost Ron Larsen: numbering change can be made in Course Leaf by department—no involvement by UGC
 - **Babcock motion to adopt guidelines, Livingston second, unanimous adoption of graduate course numbering guidelines, effective today.**

Committee Reports

- Policy & Procedures Committee
 - Graduate Representative Policy—Vice Chair Borkowski gathered feedback, distributed feedback to UGC, and then discussion ensued.
 - Much of feedback dealt with how faculty member is assigned—resented being “assigned” rather than “asked.”
 - Concerns regarding untenured faculty serving—power dynamic, promotion and tenure ramifications
 - Narrow pool by faculty who already work with grad students? Would be too narrow to be practical
 - Instead of a grad rep, have an outside member on committee that is selected by student (rather than assigned by GS)?

- Dean Hoo: responsibility placed on student not fair to student, Graduate School staff have difficulty assigning and reassigning reps, participation issues for grad reps (allowed, welcomed, and so forth), time could be better spent for everyone involved.
- Chair Dyer: if receiving negative feedback from reps regarding proceedings, then grad rep is important for fairness.
- Suggestion: make it optional. Committee chair or student generally are able to foresee issues that will arise and therefore student or chair could request to have a graduate representative.
- Could eliminating grad rep create more work for Graduate School staff? Students will bring issues directly to GS rather than having third party (grad rep) report on something.
- Could there be an opt-out pool? Would numbers still work?
- No credit given, no training, therefore not valuable use of faculty time.
- **Chair Dyer suggests that having a grad rep on a doctoral committee should not be optional and that UGC should put forward a policy proposal to eliminate grad rep, post for campus comment, and then vote on the topic.**
 - **Assigned UGC Policy committee (chair Borkowski) to create policy proposal for discussion at the next UGC meeting.**
- **Curriculum Committee**
 - John Seifert will serve as acting chair of Curriculum sub-committee
- **Governance Committee**
 - Review of by-laws regarding role of Faculty Senate member (Chair Dyer)
 - Chair Dyer and Governance sub-committee are **not in favor** of voting rights for Faculty Senate member (see hand out)
 - UGC is a representative body of the colleges; the Faculty Senate member may be perceived as creating an imbalance of representation for whatever college s/he represents
 - Voting right by the Faculty Senate member may create the perception that Faculty Senate has oversight of UGC, which is inaccurate
 - Formal policy changes have been made by UGC to ensure Faculty Senate already is allowed input on UGC matters
 - Faculty Senate member Babcock comments on **for** voting rights
 - Feels he, personally, brings broad perspective to UGC meetings, does not represent his college or department
 - Does not view Faculty Senate as an oversight body
 - Would like to contribute to UGC through motions and voting
 - Feels he can be ethical and that he strives to be unbiased
 - Will honor whatever vote result and will still attend UGC if not given right to vote
 - Dean Hoo expressed her appreciation for Faculty Senate member Babcock's participation on UGC, but going forward wants some assurance that future Faculty Senate members also can have similar unbiased approach
 - **Chair Dyer asks that a vote be put on agenda for next meeting (10/13/15)**

Member Babcock moved to adjourn, Borkowski second, unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.