

Graduate Council Minutes
September 12, 2008

Present: Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney, Jon Raskin, Karen Bell, Barbara Chorzempa, Dan Kempton, Gweneth M. Lloyd, Narcyz Roztockki, Anat Shiftan, Bernadette Morris, Elizabeth Hester, Jan McLaurin

1. Approval of minutes

Members accepted a motion to approve the minutes of 09/05/08, with suggested revision.

Members also unanimously accepted a motion to approve the revised minutes of 5/02/08.

2. Announcements

No announcements.

3. New Business

A. New Course for Approval - GLG509 Water Resources Management

Course seems to be of interest and timely for students. Also, this course is very helpful for students in the School of Education because it is a liberal arts course with no prerequisites.

No sample course outline was provided.

Class limit is noted as fifteen and the justification for this was that a term paper is a requirement for the course. However, although a midterm and final are noted on the proposed lecture schedule, there is no research or term paper noted.

Course proposer needs to correct grammatical errors (e.g., correct sentence fragments).

B. Prospective students with low GPAs

Laurel recommended to the Dean and two faculty members who presented their concerns to her last year that they write a proposal for the acceptance of students with low undergrad GPAs for Graduate Council. Their concern is that some prospective graduate students return for a master's degree many years after their undergraduate degree and that their GPA, if lower than a 3.0, should not be held against them.

The issue to consider: The Graduate School needs to have some standard.

No Graduate School, to Laurel's knowledge, accepts students without considering undergrad GPA. The President and Provost support the idea of allowing students with a GPA of 2.9-2.99 to take the GRE, GMAT, or MAT to account for the undergraduate GPA not quite meeting the minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA requirement.

No students should be admitted to grad programs if they do not meet stated program requirements. If ever audited, have to show proof for exception. People who admit students to their programs are held to upholding the standards for accepting students. Coordinators are relied upon to uphold the criteria.

If a student wants to pursue a second bachelor's degree undergraduate admissions require a GPA of 2.75, and accept 90 credits in transfer. There is an exception to this, however, in that undergraduate admissions will accept students with minimum GPAs of 2.50 for second bachelor's degrees in selected undergraduate programs.

Concerns raised:

- GPA crude measurement; quality is more indicative, look more at entire application.
- GRE and MAT useful information, but also biased. Although a point was raised that it is possible to study for GRE or MAT.
- How can we find a way to help students who want to return after many years?

Suggestions and considerations:

- Raise GPA by repeating undergraduate courses. However, it was pointed out that after an undergraduate degree has been conferred, a student cannot raise the undergraduate GPA by taking additional coursework.
- The Psychology program would like to revise their acceptance criteria to state something similar to: 3.0 GPA or evidence of recent academic achievement. No minimum GRE score would be published to prohibit a student from applying; but rather the term "recommended score" would be used.
- Have the faculty discuss this issue within each department and School: What do we want for acceptance criteria? Are there unique things to consider? Let's list the criteria in the catalogue.
- Provisional acceptance raises concerns (i.e., accepted conditionally based on completion of admission requirement(s)).
- A range can be provided: Instead of a set score, let's discuss what we want that range to be (e.g., Grad school can say minimum GPA or GRE is X, but programs can say, recommended for acceptance to this program is Y.) Depts. can then present their criteria to Grad Council and then we can review it. The point was raised though that whatever is decided, there has to be room for professional judgment.
- Any exceptions to acceptance criteria must be put in writing and submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval. (e.g., people applying who have a master's degree.)
- Policy helps with consistency across Schools.

C. Research and Creative Projects Award

Currently the deadline for the awards is in the fall, but this poses a problem for several students who wish to use the money to attend conferences during the spring. The Council was asked to consider providing the opportunity to submit proposals in the spring and fall semesters. If the subcommittee cannot review as previously done, should faculty outside of the Graduate Council be asked to review?

Can the funding be increased to assist more students?

Also, faculty members are requested to take responsibility to review student applications before they are submitted to improve quality.

D. Marketing

Laurel will be meeting with departments to discuss marketing plan. She will share information with the Graduate Council members for input and feedback.

Other:

J. Raskin, as presiding officer, raised the concern that this is the second year that the School of Science and Engineering has had no representation on the Graduate Council. He will contact Dean Dan Jelski and Associate Dean Julio Gonzalez to address the vacancy on the Council.

2:28 meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Barbara Chorzempa