

Graduate Council Minutes
September 5, 2008

Present: Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney, Jon Raskin, Karen Bell, Barbara Chorzempa, Dan Kempton, Gweneth M. Lloyd, Narcyz Roztock, Anat Shifan, Bernadette Morris, Judy Rance-Roney, Elizabeth Hester, Jan McLaurin

Guests: Vika Shock, Chris Vivas, Mert Sanivar

Announcements:

- Laurel announced there will be a Graduate Coordinators' Brunch. This year all individuals involved in reviewing graduate applications and the Council members will be invited.
- The MS School Counseling program has been approved.
- MFA students will be given in-state tuition rather than out-of-state tuition as a recruitment effort. When they become eligible, they will be expected to become NYS residents. International students will get the scholarship, but they will not be able to become NYS residents.
- International graduate student orientation was a great success. It was well attended.
- The updated graduate catalog is now online and it is requested that everyone review it for accuracy. Please let Laurel know if there should be any revisions. Now that the catalog is online, changes will be ongoing.

Old Business

a. Graduate Students' Association

The GSA has developed by-laws with Mert Sanivar, Chris Vivas, and Kierstin Egge as the officers.

- Mert met with the International students and Chris met with TAs/GAs.
- The first meeting of the group will be on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 9:00 PM in the outside area of the Sojourner Truth Library. It was recommended that future meetings be started earlier as many graduate students live off-campus and many have classes that end at 7:10 PM.
- It was suggested that the GSA offer workshops concerning internships.
- The members spoke to the provost about a graduate lounge. It is anticipated that when Old Main comes back online there will be a graduate student lounge. In the meantime, they are looking for other spaces.
- Art graduate students wanted a place to display their work. There are several venues being researched.
- The group is working on a Face Book account to get information out to graduate students and will be contacting coordinators. It was suggested that a Blackboard site be set up to get the word out.
- The officers met with the president of the SA during spring 2008 to get money from the student fees. The money was already allocated for the fall 2008 semester and while there may be some funds available, nothing has happened yet. There are some available spaces in the SA Senate. There will be additional spaces added for graduate students, but so far it is not clear how many. SA wants GSA to be part of the SA, rather than a separate entity.

b. Replace Course Grading Option

The replace course grading option will be in effect and will be calculated into the GPA. All courses will still appear on the transcript. A written request must be made to the Dean of the Graduate School for the Replace Course Grading Option. The second grade will always replace the original grade regardless of whether it is higher or lower, if a graduate student requests to use the replace option. The policy will allow only one course replacement. More than one course can be repeated, but only one can be replaced.

c. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Option

The S/U option can be used for graduate students only with the permission of the Dean of the Graduate School.

d. Course Designation (Professional/Technical)

When we revise the form, we need to keep LA designation but not P/T.

e. Graduate Programs that Require Undergraduate Courses

Invite Laurel to discuss revisions of programs as some of our programs are many more credits than our competitors.

New Business

a. New courses

There is one new course for approval, GLG509 Water Resources Management

Ten new courses were approved with EDS prefixes. These courses are designed as New Paltz equivalents for the Humanistic/Multicultural program as we don't offer content courses in many areas of certification from which the Humanistic/Multicultural program draws candidates. There was some concern about the EDS prefix, since these courses are designed to be Liberal Arts content courses. Laurel took the issue under advisement and will bring it back to Council after consultation.

b. Laurel reported on the 33 graduate courses that had minor revisions submitted and were accepted.

c. Graduate Students' Progress – Spring 2008

Laurel provided a report on how many students fell into the various categories of academic warning, probation and dismissal.

d. New Graduate School Forms

New forms have been developed for graduate students and their advisors are now available on the Graduate School website. Some of these forms are:

Graduate Credit Transfer Request: The form was presented to the Council.

Non-matriculated Student Waiver Form: The current policy allows non-matriculated graduate students to take 6 credits, after which time their registration is blocked. Non-matriculated students can take 3 additional credits and must matriculate or sign the waiver indicating that they understand that should they later wish to matriculate into a New Paltz graduate program, they can only transfer in 6-9 credits depending on the program.

Request for Deferral of Matriculation and Request for Extension of Time – these forms will make implementing policies easier. A few suggestions were offered for revising the forms, which Vika recorded and advised she would change.

e. Update on Graduate School enrollments: Currently application numbers and yields are down, so we need to think about what we do and how to increase enrollments. The Graduate School will move on marketing and will be working on the letters that go out to students.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen N. Bell