Graduate Council Meeting

April 12, 2003, 1:00-2:45 P.M.

Attendance: Inge Anema, Mary Ellen Bafumo (substituting for Thais da Cunha), Karen Bell (Acting Chair), Lawrence Fialkow, Matthew Friday, Dan Kempton, Gweneth Lloyd, Rosemary Millham, Narcyz Roztocki, Vika Shock, Jane Sileo

Excused: Thais da Cunha, Laurel Garrick Duhaney (Dean), Helise Winters

The meeting was conducted by Karen Bell.

1. The minutes of the March 8, 2013 meeting were approved.
2. Announcements:
   a. The annual Graduate Faculty Meeting will be on Wed., April 24, 2013, 3:00-4:30, Old Main 1907. To accommodate the schedules of those who cannot attend at this time, a second meeting will be held at a time to be announced later.
   b. (R. Millham) Environment and Sustainability Awareness Day with Andy Revkin, 4/20/13, 12:00-4:00.
   c. (M. Friday) The faculty art exhibition (the first in about a decade) will be held in Dorsky Museum, April 12-23. Kathy Goodell has received a Guggenheim Fellowship.
3. A new course, Thematic Studio ARS706, was presented by M. Friday. The course has run previously as a special topics course. It will probably run again only one or two more times because the need for the course has been eliminated in the new MS Ed program. The course was approved.
4. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of various policy issues.
   a. F Grades. A plan of study is unacceptable for a degree if it contains an F grade. Students receiving such a grade must take another course, or use the repeat option, leading to a new plan of study which does not report an F grade.
   b. Class participation grades. Grading based on class participation, including attendance, should be clarified in the syllabus. However, there is inherent difficulty in rating oral presentations, so there is a need for a rubric to facilitate uniformity in grading oral presentations. The Council will consult with the Curriculum Committee concerning their policies for grading oral presentations in undergraduate courses.
   c. Independent Study. The present policy is that there is a 6 credit maximum for independent study (not including work on a thesis).
   d. Admission criteria. The basic requirement is a minimum 3.0 GPA on a transcript from a previous degree program. Students above 2.8 may be considered if they have satisfactory GRE scores or have some other positive credential. Some programs require GREs, others do not. Art Studio requires a portfolio submission. Some programs consider only upper division courses on the transcript. There was a discussion also of provisional acceptance, since not all grades may be known at the time for an admissions decision. The Council agreed that there should be no change to the basic 3.0 requirement.
5. Non-matriculated graduate student application and fee proposal. The Council needs more information as to what the issue or proposal is. In the discussion it was stated that at present there is no way for applicants or faculty to check whether applications are incomplete or incorrect (so as to initiate corrective action). It was also stated that at present, acceptance letters are only sent by email, and that it would be better to send a regular letter or some other follow-up.

Submitted by Lawrence Fialkow