

SUNY- NEW PALTZ GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF February 18, 2011 MEETING
Location: Haggerty Administration Building, Room 802

Meeting called to Order: 1:05 PM

Present: Inge Anema, Stella Deen, Larry Fialkow, Dan Kampton, Jan McLaurin, Rosemary Millham, Andrea Noel, Narcyz Roztock, Rose Rudnitski, Vika Shock, Bernadette Morris, Matthew Friday

1. Approval of minutes for meeting of February 4, 2011: unanimously approved with no changes
2. Announcements
 - The Graduate Council recommendations for the Middle States self-study draft have been incorporated into the revision.
 - Rose Rudnitski will serve as Presiding Officer of the Graduate Faculty.
 - Report on the Open House: Great turnout. Thank you to Vika and staff for the great venue and participation. Great advertisements on radio, etc.
 - New scholarship for MAT and MEd candidates in selected academic areas: It is now public and being promoted!
 - Graduate students to present research in Albany: Selection has been made; One from English, one from Engineering and one from Computer Sciences will be the top three submissions. Three alternates have also been selected.
3. Old Business
 - a. Graduate Council recommendations for a comprehensive plan for improving enrollment in graduate programs (Tabled)
 - b. Jan: Defining full-time graduate student status: Re: Research Foundation Grant: Problem appears when we appoint a student to a research project due to the grant criteria. One is a FT status and impacts the fringe benefit rate for the grant. Impacts getting students on the grant. Jan has worked on a form that provides a range of criteria to make the process easier and more students inclusive for the grant funding. i.e. engineering is 9 credits and all others are 12 in the grad programs. Financial aid requires 12 as FT. It is thought that 9 credits should be considered as a FT student. Additionally, taxes may also require 12 credits for FT for tuition breaks. Insurance companies may also consider 12 credits as FT. Need to do some research on this. The form that Jan created could be sent around to insurance companies and others for confirmation of acceptance as FT status. Or, modify Jan's form for specific purposes.

- c. Best Practices in Distance Learning (Tabled)
4. New Business
- a. **Academic Appeal** for Laurie Blancher (Anne Balant): Student appeal for reinstatement to the program (Speech-Language Pathology). She has had a number life of issues that has forced her out of the region and she has failed her oral comprehensive/written exams, twice, and is now requesting reinstatement and opportunity to retake the exams (for the 3rd time) to receive the degree. There is a question of her integrity and ethics. The exam hard copy is no longer retrievable as she did not turn it in as requested, and was not located by the instructors. NOTE: The written exams are graded blind. Her GPA was 3.5. A dichotomy exists within class work and clinical experience. The question is, do we allow her to retake the comprehensive exams? The department did provide approval on the written part (Laurie does not know this) and are awaiting approval of the oral. Stella suggests that a letter be sent stating specific guidelines for both the written and oral exams and what will be allowed. Needs to be rigorous with the oral exam given first followed by the written exam if the oral exam is passed. Motion made (Andrea) that Laurie be allowed to take a rigorous oral followed by the written if the oral is passed. If she does not pass the orals, she does not graduate. All of these matters need to be place in the letter. Additionally, the written portion should be mandated in a particular time frame. Seconded with a unanimous vote to approve.
 - b. Graduate transcript discrepancy between credits required for degree vs. overall credits (Laura Schultz): The transcripts do not include student teaching credit hours, or the seminar hour for the MAT program, as they are UG credits. This causes difficulty with school district administrators because they are not sure if the student fulfilled their obligations for the graduate degree since the actual number of credits required for degree is not reflected in total credits taken on the student transcripts. Suggestion that SED and Elementary Ed change these to graduate numbers in SEDXXX Internship I and SEDXXX Internship II for student teaching, and provide a graduate number for seminar for the MAT. A motion was made to recommend that the SED and ELED departments revise their MAT and MST graduate programs, plans of study, and all relevant documents to reflect a graduate number for both student teaching placements and, in the case of SED, seminar. This is not a minor change and will need to go through the review process. The committee supports this effort unanimously. Ro and Andrea will address this issue at their respective department meetings.
 - c. Assessment of Graduate Programs (Tabled)
 - a. Surveying current students, exiting students, and alumni to learn more about your graduate program (Tabled)

- b. How to evaluate the quality of graduate programs (Tabled)
- c. The role of the Graduate Council in supporting new graduate program development (Tabled)
- d. Including 600-level classes in our graduate curricula (tabled)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rosemary Millham