

Graduate Council Minutes
March 18, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 PM

Present: Inge Anema, Larry Fialkow, Matthew Friday, Stella Deen, Gweneth Lloyd, Jan McLaurin, Rosemary Millham, Andrea Noel, Narcyz Roztocky, Rose Rudnitsky, Vika Shock, Laura Schultz for Bernadette Morris.

Minutes for March 4, 2011: approved

Announcements

- Stella Deen reported the NYSED policy, Awarding Credit for Same Courses in Different Degree Programs, which states: "In the case of combined Bachelors/Master's programs, so long as the outstanding students admitted to these programs successfully complete graduate level courses that assume the more rudimentary knowledge taught on the undergraduate level, or so long as they master graduate courses that cover the content of undergraduate courses, there is no reason why they should not receive both undergraduate and graduate credit for the same work."
- The Graduate School received 16 Research and Creative Project applications which will be reviewed next week by the subcommittee.
- A subcommittee selected three students to represent SUNY New Paltz by presenting their research at the *Research that Matters* event in Albany in early March. The students were from the departments of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and English.
- Sally Cross will meet with the Graduate Council on April 15, 2011 to discuss contacting graduate student alumni.
- MAT information sessions will be held on March 29, 2011 at 1:30 in SUB 62/63 and on March 31, 2011 at 4:30 in LC 104. The TESOL program will also be represented at these sessions.

Old Business

- *Proposal for BS/MS ("Dual Award") programs in Electrical and in Computer Engineering*

The revisions requested by the Council at its previous meeting were presented. R. Millham moved to approve the 5 year program; the motion was seconded by Jan McLaurin with the Council voting to approve the program.

- *How to evaluate the quality of graduate programs*

Stella Deen initiated the discussion by indicating that one way to evaluate quality is to review data that has been collected, particularly through the Graduate Student Exit

Survey. A summary report will be prepared that presents both the positive and negative findings of the survey.

Discussion Issue: job search assistance findings

A councilor suggested that faculty may need to communicate to students the services that are available through the Career Resource Center. Gweneth Lloyd recommended that Tonda Highley come to a meeting of the Council. Vika reported that the Center is represented every year at Open House. Stella will converse with Tonda, after which Tonda will be invited to attend a meeting of the Council if it appears that might be productive.

Discussion Issue: Advisement

Stella initiated the discussion by inquiring what could be done to address this issue.

Councilor recommendations included:

- communication between faculty having shared students,
- provision by faculty of general information during class sessions,
- provision by the Graduate School of reminders to students (this would also address the student-identified need for improved communication from that office),
- provision by the Graduate School of a "Tip of the Month" regarding an issue pertinent to the month,
- use of social media by the Graduate School, and
- presentation by the Graduate School of a best practices workshop for effective advising, possibly done in conjunction with a graduate faculty meeting.

Stella requested Councilors to send her ideas for the Tip of the Month, such as changes to the plan of study, filing the plan of study, deficiencies, etc.

A tentative date of May 11, 2011 was set for the next graduate faculty meeting.

Discussion Issue: lack of course variety

Contributing to this issue is the fact that scheduling too many courses may result in cancellations. This situation may be reflected in the survey results. Stella indicated that Council may need to ask the Provost for help with this issue. Councilors revisited the potential solution of faculty workload being spread over the summer period when needed. Council understood that this was a Union issue and that faculty workload had to occur across the academic year. Larry Fialkow reported that there is nothing in the Union contract regarding when faculty may teach. He said that a department has to work with the Provost and demonstrate the need for courses to be taught in the summer for a particular program.

Discussion Issue: involving students in out-of-class activities, particularly research

After some discussion, Stella inquired as to the next step in providing faculty with information for initiating this process. One suggestion was to ask Maureen Morrow to talk to the Council regarding her process of involving undergraduates in research. Larry Fialkow was identified as one who involves students in his research. The suggestion

followed that he and others might form a panel for the presentation of procedures and information related to the participation of students in research.

- *Best practices in distance learning*

Time did not allow for discussion of this agenda item.

New Business

- *The role of the Graduate council in supporting new graduate program development*

Time did not allow for discussion of this agenda item.

- *Including 600-level classes in our graduate curricula*

This issue had been tabled previously. Stella requested that if interest exists in discussing this issue to let her know or she will remove it as an item of New Business. She said the issue concerns whether further delineation of graduate courses is needed. Historically, the 600 numbers were created and used after the 500 and 700 numbers; later, departments stopped using them. One suggestion was that the Council should develop criteria for the numbering system for presentation to the graduate faculty.

Stella determined that some research needs to be done regarding the numbering systems used at other campuses.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan W. McLaurin