Graduate Council Meeting  
Pima Room Student Union  
3:00 P.M.  
March 24, 2017  
Minutes


Invited Guest: Mrinal Ghosh, Tirtankar Roy, Jayla Fry, Ryan Windows and Lisa Elfring

I. Call to Order and Roll Call.
The meeting was called to order by Chair Walter Klimecki at 3:05 p.m.
Attendance was taken using a roll call sheet.

II. Approval of Minutes.
Chair Klimecki called for a motion to approve the February 2017 minutes. Member Rosenfeld moved and Member Wallendorf seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

III. Dean's Report – Carnie –
1) The GA work load study is in progress, please encourage your RA’s and TA’s to take it. We are also working on language for 7-week classes as far as hiring TA’s and RA’s. While the student’s work for the semester will compressed into 7-weeks, they will be hired for the whole semester.
2) An announcement was sent out on March 1, announcing a seed-funding program to support growth in selected Masters Programs. Titled Recruiting Master’s Students to meet Arizona Community Needs. We should be soon getting submissions. This can only be used to pay graduate tuition and cannot be used for anything else. These are new dollars and we want people to reinvest into the program after the first year of the awards. It is up the Deans to nominate programs they want to apply.

Associate Dean's Report – Sturman
1) Just returned from the Western Associations of Graduate Schools (WAGS) conference where she has been elected new incoming President. Member Sturman presented on graduate certificates options, including our new bridge to the master’s option and experiments with stackable certificates and also talked about graduate badges, which will be used for professional development.
   One of the highlights on the WAGS program was a CGS presentation regarding completion rates; 60% of PhD students complete in 6 years; 50% of those who do not complete drop out after completing every milestone (ABT/D). This points to a real opportunity to improve late-stage attrition.
2) Grad Slam is taking place right now on campus and one of our students competed in Seattle at the Western Regional Association competition at the WAGS conference.
3) Also please encourage your faculty to be reviewers for NSF, this is an important opportunity to improve our chances to be awarded grants.
4) Graduate Student Academic Services is working on the Graduate Commencement Program. Please direct any entries to Elise Bowler and she will make sure they get in the program.

IV. Chairs Report – Chair Klimecki
1) Attended the Faculty Senate meeting where the proposal for "K" grades was heard and approved. Also a Master's degree in Human Rights was presented and approved. Allison Vallencourt gave a presentation on reducing the number of job titles.

Co-Chairs Report – Field - nothing to report

V. GPSC Report - Sheldon
1) Reported that elections were underway. Member Sheldon offered a big thank you to the Graduate College for helping to get the word out.
2) Member Sheldon did notice that the work load surveys were out and they are still looking into the issue of course fees.
3) He also indicated that funding increases may be coming for the travel grant program. They are looking at structuring in the hopes that they get more students to apply.
4) Another issue GPSC is looking at is the graduate student dental insurance issue. They are looking to see if this is a top priority for graduate students.
VI. Action Items:
1. **Alternate Grad Replacement Proposal – Sturman**
   This proposal was given to us by Celeste Pardee in the registrar’s office and presented by Member Sturman. The proposed change are:
   a. Replace the Alternative Grade System of S/P/C/D/E with the S/P/F Grade system for the following undergraduate and graduate Senior-level Research/Project Courses and Small group Courses:
      - Senior Capstones: 498
      - First-Year Colloquium: 195
      - Colloquium: 295, 395, 495, 595, 695, 795
      - Proseminar and Seminar: 196, 296, 396, 496, 596, 696, 796
   Chair Klimecki called for a motion. Melanie Wallendorf moved to accept the proposal as presented and Beatrice Dupuy seconded. Motion carried and passed unanimously.

2. **Proposal for Master of Science in Marketing Application – Ghosh**
   Visitor Ghosh gave an overview of the proposal – stated that this program already existed as a Subplan and this proposal was to turn that subplan into a regular degree plan. There has been an increasing demand for Graduate Students who want to specialize in Marketing. Chair Klimecki called for discussion and then called for motion; Anne Rosenfeld moved and Steve Kuhn seconded. Motion carried.

VII. Discussion Items:
1. **UA Vitae Student - Access and Management – Windows**
   Guest Windows gave a Power point discussion regarding UA Vitae for graduate students. UA Vitae provides a tool that Directors of Graduate Studies could use to track students. This will be a grad student version of the faculty reporting system and will be managed by the graduate. He asked if departments wanted information on students pulled in every semester or once a year. A suggestion was made to pull in data twice a year. He stated that programs won’t be required to use this tool if they don’t want to. Presenting to the Graduate Council was the 1st audience for this program, it will be presented to the directors of graduate studies next. Members of Graduate Council had positive remarks for Guest Window and looked forward to the implementation.

2. **Distance Education in Host Country Language (e.g. Chinese) – Sturman**
   The question of whether the UA should offer programs offered solely in the language of a host Country for distance degrees. Various logistical challenges were discussed. The idea also received praise from some members as being forward-thinking and serving new populations. There was no consensus over the idea however concern was expressed that this worthwhile program could set the stage for remote teaching in host language, a potential move that the committee felt was complex and problematic. People did expressed an interest in pursuing it at future meetings.

3. **Discussion on Proposal to revise the TCE Core Questions on the TCE – Elfring**
   **Background:** In Fall 2016, a focus group was formed to examine the TCE questions. This group, representing the colleges of Education, Humanities, Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences, went through the entire list of TCE questions to recommend wording changes that would eliminate gender bias and focus more on the student experience than on the effectiveness of the instructor as well as, make recommendations about shortening the online TCE instrument to promote student completion of the TCEs.

   After the committee finished up in Spring 2017, OIA personnel made recommendations to create a shorter, “core” list of TCE questions, focused on the student’s experience, that ask about the elements we recognize as central to effective teaching: clear learning objectives, establishing relevance, clear grading practices, opportunities for retrieval and practice, relevant feedback, promoting a respectful classroom, opportunities to make connections between topics, and inspiring interest in the subject matter. Discussion ensued and many ideas were shared with guest Elfring. There is no roll out date; Guest Elfring was merely seeking input at this time.

   A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:05PM. Motion carried. The next and final Graduate Council meeting for the semester will be Friday, April 21st, 3PM in the Pima Room of the Student Union (3rd level of the student union).

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Ann Bjerk-Plocke
Graduate Council Secretary