

Faculty Senate

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Graduate Council

Annual Report of the Graduate Council 2009-2010

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee
 Date: June 30, 2010
 From: Walt Loveland, Chair, Graduate Council AY2009-10
 RE: Graduate Council Annual Report for AY2009-2010

The Graduate Council (GC) met fourteen times during the Academic Year 2009-2010 and had representation from all colleges. The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Graduate Council during the academic year. Details may be found in the Graduate Council minutes posted on the website:

<http://oregonstate.edu/senate/committees/gradcncl/min/index.html>

Category I Proposals

The following Category I proposals were reviewed. The actions taken are listed below:

- Terminate the graduate degrees in Geophysics in COAS. The GC approved this action.
- Terminate the graduate degrees in Atmospheric Sciences in COAS. The GC approved this action.
- Rename the graduate degree in Oceanography to one in Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. The GC approved this action.
- Terminate the Ph.D. degree in Comparative Veterinary Medicine. The GC approved this action.
- Change the name of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. The GC declined to approve this proposal.

Category II Proposals

The Council changed its method of reviewing category II proposals. Previously the Council had used a group of three members guided by Dean Fisk to discuss these proposals. This system had led to a long review process with significant backlogs of Cat II proposals at any time. This system was replaced by a system in which each Council member reviewed Cat II proposals in his or her discipline, thus increasing the number of reviewers and making a better match between proposal and reviewer. A substantial improvement in the clearance time for proposals resulted. To help in the review process, a secondary reviewer was engaged for each proposal to assure a thorough examination of the proposal.

Graduate Program Reviews

Scheduled reviews and actions taken are listed below:

- Graduate program in Teacher and Counselor Education was reviewed, and the report of the Review Team was accepted by the GC. The GC still awaits completion of an action plan to address the review conclusions.
- Graduate program in Biological and Environmental Engineering was reviewed and the report of the Review Team was accepted by the GC.
- Graduate program in Environmental Sciences was reviewed and the report of the Review Team was accepted by the GC.
- Postponements of the scheduled graduate program reviews in Agricultural Education, Animal Science, Botany and Plant Pathology, and Rangeland Ecology and Management to Spring 2011 were approved. A request to postpone the scheduled review of the MPH program was denied as this review had been postponed several times before.
- The Entomology program refused to complete a self-study or to cooperate with the scheduled graduate program review of that program. The GC produced a summary review report recommending

termination of the Graduate Program in Entomology and asked the Graduate School to suspend student enrollment in the program until the future of this program was decided.

- Graduate program reviews were conducted for the MBA program, and the MPH program. The results of these reviews will be discussed in 2010-11.

Follow-up Graduate Program Reviews

These take place three years after a major program review. The details of each report are found at

<http://oregonstate.edu/senate/committees/gradcncl/min/index.html>

- The follow-up report on the Graduate program in Creative Writing and English was accepted by the GC.
- The follow-up report on the Graduate program in the History of Science was accepted by the GC.
- The follow-up report on the Graduate program in Nuclear Engineering/ Radiation Health Physics was accepted by the GC.
- The follow-up report on the Graduate program in Fisheries and Wildlife was accepted by the GC.
- The follow-up report on the Graduate program in Materials Science was accepted by the GC.

Awards: Subcommittees of Council members reviewed nominations and selected recipients of the following awards:

- Laurel Block Grants (awarded to departments)
- Oregon Lottery Scholarships
- Bayley Graduate Fellowship
- Yerex Graduate Fellowship
- Herbert F. Frolander Outstanding GTA Award
- Excellence in Graduate Mentoring Award

Review of Internal OSU Preproposals for National Funding Competitions

- Faculty proposals for Integrative Graduate Education and Traineeship Program (IGERT) for the Research Office. GC reviewed and ranked these proposals to determine which are to be selected for OSU's submission.

Policy-Related Issues

The following policy-related issues were discussed by the Graduate Council and the actions taken are indicated:

- A policy on satisfactory progress by graduate students was approved. It requires programs to develop detailed implementation plans for defining satisfactory progress and to disseminate the information widely.
- The use of professional courses (7xx) courses on graduate programs was discussed. Such use is needed for the Pharm D/Ph. D. program in Pharmacy and the DVM/MPH programs in Vet Medicine and HHS. Detailed proposals were approved by the Graduate Council dealing with each degree program which should assist students in these programs.
- A clarification of the policies regarding the use of iBT scores for teaching assistants was approved. A minimum score was established for students holding teaching assistantship positions and a set of policies for the use of low scoring TAs was established and remedial courses were prescribed for these students.
- A new policy on remote participation in graduate program meetings and examinations was approved. The policy requires, in general, two way audio-video connections for remote participants, and allows unlimited numbers of remote participants. This action was taken to facilitate graduate degree programs offered by Ecampus.
- The Graduate Council indicated that to approve future Professional Science Masters (PSM) programs it would require a library evaluation and a Budgets and Fiscal Planning Committee evaluation prior to taking up the discussion of the program. Whether this was to be accomplished by an abbreviated Category I request or a Category II request was not considered to be important.
- The Council heard a description of a possible new program to remove the MBA program from the Graduate School and to have the program administered solely from the COB. Further discussions between the Graduate School and the COB are needed to develop the details of such a proposal.
- The Graduate Council said that in the case of 5xx/6xx/7xx courses the syllabi of the courses need to be approved by the Graduate Council if the course is to be used on a Masters or Doctoral program of study.
- The Guidelines for the Review of Graduate Programs was revised to indicate the consequences of failure

to participate in the review process.

Persistent Problems Noted by the Graduate Council

In the course of discussing several issues, the Graduate Council notes the following problems as affecting graduate education and graduate programs:

- The lack of a satisfactory funding model for interdisciplinary programs. Interdisciplinary graduate programs are often restricted in size by the lack of adequate, stable funding.
- The University reorganization effort has led to a large number of postponed graduate program reviews. For AY 2010-2011 there are nominally 12 graduate program reviews that need to be carried out, which will be quite challenging.
- Approval of the needed Category I and II proposals to implement the University reorganization program will be a challenge.

2009-2010 Graduate Council Membership

Walt Loveland '11, Chair	Science
Rick Colwell, '10	Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences
Nancy King, '10	Business
Kathy O'Reilly, '10	Veterinary Medicine
Carolyn Aldwin, '11	Health and Human Sciences
Jo Tynon, '11	Forestry
Tom Wolpert, '11	Agricultural Sciences
Theresa Filtz, '12	Pharmacy
Denise Lach, '12	Liberal Arts
Jessica White, '12	Education
Vinod Narayanan, '12	Engineering

Student Member, Chris Lenn

Ex-Officio Members:

Graduate School Dean (Martin Fisk)

Graduate School Associate Dean (Gita Ramaswamy)

Darlene Russ-Eft served as the Education representative during Spring Term while White was on leave. Rong Cui represented Pharmacy during Fall term.

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