

Faculty Senate

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Graduate Council

Annual Report of the Graduate Council 2010-2011

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee
 Date: June 30, 2011
 From: Walt Loveland and Theresa Filtz, Chairs, Graduate Council, AY2010-2011
 RE: Graduate Council Annual Report for AY2010-2011

The Graduate Council (GC) met 27 times during the Academic Year 2010-2011 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:

- Approved the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) proposal to merge and rename the Forest Resources and Forest Engineering Degrees into the Sustainable Forest Management Degree.
- Approved the Forest Ecosystems and Society (FES) proposal to revise the Forest Science Graduate Program.
- Approved the proposal to establish a Master of Business Administration and Accountancy major.
- Approved the proposal to establish a School of Public Policy within the College of Liberal Arts.
- Approved the proposal to establish a PSM degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Administration.
- Approved the proposal to establish a MA degree in Women Studies.
- Approved the proposal to establish a PhD degree in Public Policy.
- Approved the proposal to rename the College of Public Health and Human Sciences and reorganize into Schools.
- Approved the proposal to rename the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences and merge with Geosciences.
- Tabled the proposal to rename the MAT in Language Arts to the MAT in Humanities pending further information from the College of Education.

CATEGORY II PROPOSALS

The Graduate Council reviewed 169 Category II proposals this year. As previously, each Council member reviewed Cat II proposals in his or her discipline. A secondary reviewer was identified for each proposal to assure a thorough examination of the proposal.

The Council approved the proposal from the College of Business to establish three new Areas of Concentration in the MBA Degree Program, namely Commercialization, Clean Technology and Research Thesis. Students entering into the Research Thesis track will be monitored by the Graduate School, all other students in the MBA program will be monitored by the College of Business.

GRADUATE PROGRAM REVIEWS

Scheduled reviews and actions taken are listed below:

- Approved postponement of the Zoology Graduate Program Review from Winter 2011 to Spring 2011.
- Approved postponement of the Master of Public Policy Graduate Program review for one year (2011-12).
- Approved postponement of the Horticulture Graduate Program review for one year due to reorganization (2011-12).
- Approved postponement of the Exercise and Sports Science Graduate Program review to Fall 2011 due

to reorganization.

- Approved postponement of the MAIS Graduate Program review to Spring 2013 due to an imminent change in the program Director.
- Approved the start of the review clock for the Applied Economics Graduate Program from the Category I proposal date of March 2009, thus postponing the graduate program review to academic year 2018/19.
- Cancelled the scheduled program review and suspended admissions into the Veterinary Sciences Graduate Program.
- Accepted the review report of the MBA program.
- Accepted the review report of the Public Health Graduate program.
- Stipulated that the graduate program in Botany and Plant Pathology make a commitment by Fall 2011 to complete a Category I proposal for major restructuring or undergo a graduate program review in Spring 2012.
- Accepted the review report of the Agricultural Education Graduate program.
- Accepted the review report of the Science and Math Education Graduate program.

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>

- Accepted the follow-up review report of the Pharmacy graduate program, and
- Accepted the follow-up review report of the COAS graduate programs.

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

POLICY-RELATED ISSUES

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

Principles for allowing postponement of Graduate Program Reviews:

1. When synchronizing within plus/minus one year with either professional reviews or accrediting body reviews; when and if requested.
2. When eliminating the program.
3. When reorganizing and a Category I proposal will be used to change the program. In this case a one year postponement will be approved and the Cat I must be submitted within that year. If the Cat I is not submitted, the review will take place a year from the originally scheduled date.

It was also decided that the 10-year review cycle starts when the first student is enrolled in the program

Monitoring of the transfer of responsibility for oversight of the MBA program from the Graduate School to the College of Business

Approved a motion, in light of the MOU between the Graduate School and the College of Business, moving all the functions related to the MBA degree out of the Graduate School and over to the College of Business. In particular:

1. The MBA program continues to participate in Graduate Program Reviews.
2. In 2012, the MBA program director will report qualitatively to the Graduate Council as to what has worked and what has not worked with the transfer of all procedures from the Graduate School to the COB. Some of the policies are:

- admission standards
- programs of study
- final oral examinations
- transfer credits
- reservation of credit
- registration requirements
- continuous enrollment
- maximum credit load

- number of courses taken in residence
- adequate student progress and grades
- dismissal of students from the MBA
- time limit for completion of the MBA.

Resolution on General Learning Outcomes for the Ph.D. Degree

The Council approved the following resolution for consideration by the Faculty Senate: As a result of successfully completing the requirements toward the Ph.D., students will be able to: (a) produce and defend an original significant contribution to knowledge; (b) demonstrate mastery of subject material; and (c) conduct scholarly activities in an ethical matter. Additional outcomes, the assessment of all outcomes and the specification of learning objectives related to these outcomes are to be carried out at the program level and reviewed periodically.

Resolution on General Learning Outcomes for Masters Degree

The Council approved the following resolution for consideration by Faculty Senate: The Graduate Learning Outcomes for Masters degrees are:

- Conduct research or produce some other form of creative work, and*
- Demonstrate mastery of subject material, and*
- Be able to conduct scholarly or professional activities in an ethical manner*

The assessment of these outcomes and the specification of learning objectives related to these outcomes are to be carried out at the program level.

Proposal to allow some professional degree holders without a prior bachelor's degree to be admitted into graduate programs at OSU

The Council approved the motion that the OSU requirement for admission to the Graduate School be changed to "a four-year baccalaureate degree or an appropriate alternative degree from an accredited college or university". Further, the Council approved the motion that it is the intent of the Graduate Council that degrees judged to be appropriate alternatives include a doctorate of pharmacy (PharmD), a doctorate of veterinary medicine (VMD or DVM), and a doctorate of medicine (MD) from US or Canadian programs.

Proposal to allow departments who wish to accept international professional degree holders without a prior bachelor's degree to appeal for admissions consideration to the Graduate Admissions Committee

The Council approved the motion: Graduate programs with an international applicant who does not have a four-year bachelor's or an appropriate alternative degree, e.g. a professional degree of at least four years duration, but who meets all other requirements for admission as a graduate student at OSU, may appeal the admissions denial to the Graduate Admission Committee (GAC). The GAC, based on evidence presented by the graduate program, will determine if the student has sufficiently demonstrated preparedness to enter a graduate program and may provide an exception to allow admissions. The Graduate Council will review this policy in one year with input from the GAC.

University Accreditation

During this year, the Chair of the Graduate Council was the representative for graduate education on the Accreditation Steering Committee, (this duty involved attending 1 1/2 hour weekly meetings for about 14 months and external work.) The Council was used to review the sections of the Accreditation Self-Study document dealing with Graduate Education and to suggest/approve/evaluate institutional indicators for the Graduate Education Core Theme.

During 2010-11, OSU had a full cycle 10-year accreditation review. Starting in 2011, the institution will participate in a continuous cycle accreditation review by the NWCCU, with yearly activities. We suggest that a member of the Graduate Council continue to participate in this new continuous cycle accreditation process. The accreditation process may be best handled by a joint Administrative/Faculty Senate committee.

PERSISTENT PROBLEMS NOTED BY THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

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

- The University reorganization effort has led to a large number of postponed graduate program reviews, an on-going problem from last year. The Council suggests a revision of the self-study review team members to reduce the number of Graduate Council members on the review team from two to one, and to substitute with either an additional external reviewer or an OSU faculty member at large.
- Approval of the needed Category I and II proposals to implement the University reorganization program will be a challenge.
- At the urging of the Faculty Senate President, the Council extensively discussed the current Graduate

Program Review Guidelines and the data requirements demanded of each program for the decennial reviews in response to widespread concern that the demands are too burdensome. Council members remain split on whether the data demanded is sufficient or unnecessary to achieve a comprehensive review, and revision of the guidelines was not accomplished this year. Council should consider re-examining the issue next year in coordination with the University Assessment Council and the office of Institutional Research. All agreed that improved central data collection would lessen the burden of programs to complete the self-study. The new graduate level learning outcomes and program-specific metrics currently being developed, as well as the data required by the NRC survey and rankings, should be discussed for integration into revised program review guidelines.

2010-2011 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Walt Loveland '11, Chair*	Science
Theresa Filtz '12, Chair**	Pharmacy
Murray Levine '13	Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences
Jim Coakley '13	Business
Michael Kent '13	Veterinary Medicine
Carolyn Aldwin (v. Donatelle) '11	Health and Human Sciences
Jo Tynon '11	Forestry
Tom Wolpert '11	Agricultural Sciences
Denise Lach '12	Liberal Arts
Cass Dykeman (v. White) '12	Education
Vinod Narayanan '12	Engineering

Student Member – Verity Bishop

Ex-Officio Members:

Graduate School Dean (Brenda McComb)
Graduate School Associate Dean (Martin Fisk)
Graduate Admissions Committee Chair (Leah Minc)

Execute Committee Liaison – Kate Hunter-Zaworski

*Chaired Fall and Winter terms

** Chaired Spring term

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