

# Faculty Senate

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## Graduate Council

### 2011-2012 Annual Report

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
 Date: July 24, 2012  
 From: Walt Loveland and Carolyn Aldwin, Chairs, Graduate Council AY2011-2012  
 RE: Graduate Council Annual Report for AY2011-2012

The Graduate Council (GC) met 16 times during the Academic Year 2011-2012 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>

### ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC)

Given the large number of Category I proposals, Graduate Council members participated in the 14 APC pre-reviews of graduate level Category I proposals (two were postponed).

- Graduate Certificate in Public Health (Loveland)
- Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (Loveland)
- Environmental Engineering MS and Ph.D. (Narayanan & Lach)
- MAT in Science Education/MAT in Math Education (Levine & Dykeman)
- Omnibus College of Liberal Arts (Aldwin & Dykeman)
- MBE in Construction Engineering Management (Levine)
- School of Life Sciences (Filtz)
- MFA in Creative Writing (Lach)
- Graduate Certificate in College & University Teaching (Dykeman)
- Graduate Certificate in Rural Policy (Coakley)
- PSM in Renewable Energy (Levine)
- Department of Applied Economics (Coakley)
- MA, MS in Communication, New Graduate Degree Program (Coakley & Dykeman)
- Comparative Health Sciences (Veterinary Medicine) (Semevolos)
- History of and Philosophy of Science MA, MS & Ph.D. (Aldwin – postponed)
- MA in Environmental Humanities (Lach – postponed).

### CATEGORY I PROPOSALS

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

- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Proposal to eliminate the program, which had no faculty or students – APPROVED.
- School of Integrated Plant, Soil, and Insect Science (Abbreviated Category I: Reorganization, Merger, Rename) – HOLD [sent back to the academic units by the GC].
- College of Education Abbreviated Category I proposal – APPROVED.
- MAT in Science Education/MAT in Mathematics Education – APPROVED.
- Graduate Certificate in Public Health – APPROVED.
- Merger of Animal Sciences with Rangeland Ecology and Management –APPROVED. (NOTE: additional CAT I to merge graduate programs will be needed.)
- Food in Culture and Social Justice Graduate Certificate Program – WITHDRAWN.
- Food in Culture and Social Justice Graduate Minor – APPROVED.

- Design & Human Environment – Create School and Align with College of Business – APPROVED.
- Environmental Engineering Category I proposal – APPROVED.
- University Certificate in College and University Teaching – APPROVED.
- Termination of Construction Engineering Management (MBE) – APPROVED.
- MA/MS in Communications (Category I – new program) – RETURNED.

## CATEGORY II PROPOSALS

There were 153 graduate level Category II proposals this year. As in previous years, each Council member reviewed Cat II proposals from his or her college. A secondary reviewer was identified for each proposal to serve as consultant as needed.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM REVIEWS

Seven scheduled reviews were conducted; five reports were approved (including two from last year); three reports will be completed next year; one delay was approved.

- Animal Science and Rangeland Graduate Program Review – Report approved.
- Design and Human Environment Program – Report approved.
- Nutrition Graduate Program Review – Report amended & approved.
- Botany & Plant Pathology – postponement to Fall 2012 approved.
- Geology and Geography Graduate Program Review – Report approved with revisions.
- Zoology Graduate Program Review – Report approved.
- Physics Program – Review conducted; report due Fall, 2012
- Masters in Public Policy – Review conducted; report due Fall, 2012.
- Horticulture – Review conducted; report due Fall, 2012.
- Exercise & Sports Science – Review conducted; report delayed.

## 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>

- Masters of Agriculture Program – problems were identified in the report, including lack of a marketing program, low enrollment, and problems with learning outcomes. Report was accepted **with the proviso that the program director return in a year to report on progress in these areas.**
- Food Science and Technology – Report accepted.
- Environmental Sciences Graduate Program – Report accepted.
- Biological and Ecological Engineering (BEE) Graduate Program – Report accepted.
- Mechanic Engineering Graduate Degree Program – Report accepted.

## 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 Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
- Excellence in Graduate Mentoring Award

In addition, a subcommittee is reviewing over the summer:

- Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) outstanding thesis awards
- CGS/Proquest Distinguished Dissertation Award

## POLICY-RELATED ISSUES

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

## Review of Request from Academic Programs for a Policy Statement on Ecampus Degree Proposals

Alfonso Bradoch and Gary Beach requested that the Graduate Council decide whether or not to review Ecampus proposals for the migration of existing graduate classes to Ecampus. Issues included learning outcomes and assessment. GC requested further information on who had accountability for ensuring that the ecampus versions of the courses were comparable. Decision: It was decided that Graduate Council would not need to review Ecampus versions of graduate classes, as long as Academic Programs would ensure that the on- and e-campus versions were comparable.

### **Review of Graduate Certificates**

Currently, no separate review process exists for graduate certificate programs. After much debate concerning the GC oversight role and workload issues, it was decided that the GC does not need to review existing programs. Ecampus is charged with ensuring comparability across on- and e-campus programs, but Assessment should participate in the review, with GC input as needed.

### **Transcript-Visible Specializations at the Graduate Level**

Jim Coakley and Brenda McComb developed a proposal to allow for [transcript-visible specializations at the graduate level](#). Approved.

### **New Institutional Indicators of Core Theme 2: Graduate Research and Education**

Brenda McComb and Becky Warner proposed changes to the original report from the Graduate Council. A number of difficulties were noted, including:

- Two indicators in the previous document were eliminated in the new one;
- The use of the terms "threshold" and "goals" may be problematic;
- 2.2.3 does not include journal articles;
- 2.2 does not mention research faculty;
- tenure/tenure track dollar volume per faculty member may be problematic, etc. (see [November 2, 2011](#) minutes).
- Given that Goal 2 was the only goal which had significant faculty input, it was decided that Walter Loveland would let the Graduate School know that the GC prefers to retain the original document.
- However, subsequent conversation revealed that these changes were mandated by the Provost and President following their reading of the critique of OSU's accreditation report.

### **Approval of Graduate Faculty by the Graduate School**

Review of the Standing Rules revealed that the GC is charged with approval of graduate faculty. However, GC delegated approval to the Graduate School, which should be noted as an Internal Policy.

### **Strategic Planning Initiative**

Jim Coakley and Theresa Filtz participated in the Graduate School's Strategic Planning Initiative to enhance OSU's standing as a land grant school. Proposals include: increasing graduate student enrollment, GTA funding, and fellowships; increasing ratio of graduate students to faculty; increase number of interdisciplinary programs; increase diversity, and generally increase quality of graduate students and mentoring programs.

### **Graduate School Pilot Project – Three-year MBA & MPH Programs for Students from India**

Current OSU policy requires four-year degrees for entrance into graduate programs. However, the British system in place in many countries has only three-year degrees. As India has a thorough accreditation program, the Graduate School proposed to conduct a three-year pilot program to admit MBA and MPH students only from schools with the highest accreditation ratings. Consensus by the Graduate School indicated that they are supportive of the program, but that it should be evaluated yearly. They are willing to assist in identifying criteria to assess the progress of the students.

### **Review of Remote Participation at Oral Examinations and Doctoral Program of Study Meetings**

Last year the GC approved the possibility of remote participation in oral examinations and doctoral program meetings, but permission had to be received from the Graduate School, which was charged with monitoring the program and reporting back to the GC. The Graduate School reported that there were very few reported problems with this new procedure, and recommended that GC no longer require approval from the Graduate School. GC concurred; the new #e in the grad catalog will now simply specify that the student is responsible for making the arrangements for the defense.

## **PROCEDURAL CHANGES**

### **Graduate Student Representation on Program Review Committees**

The graduate student representative requested that she be allowed to observe a program review in order to gain a better understanding of the process. GC decided that it would be a good idea for the representative to sit in on one review, as long as the principals involved in the review agreed.

### **Category II Proposals**

Given workload, it was decided that there would be a primary reviewer from the relevant college for Category II proposals, and a secondary reviewer as consultant, as needed.

### **Academic Planning Committee Reviews**

It was decided to distribute APC reviews among the committee members, who would then be responsible for reporting on both APC reviews as well as Category I reviews.

### **Program Reviews**

It was decided that the reviewer would present the report to the GC first and then invite the program chairs/directors and/or deans after GC has a chance to ask clarifying questions and identify potential problems.

### **Preliminary Examinations**

It was felt that there was some confusion in the Graduate Catalog concerning preliminary examinations; in consultation with Bruce Rettig and Larry Bulling, the heading was changed in order to help clarify the process.

### **Graduate Council Manual**

In order to ensure smooth transitions, the current chair wrote a GC chair's manual which basically constituted an overview of the types of tasks conducted by the GC, and the procedures by which those tasks are completed.

## **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.

- Last year, the GC noted that the University reorganization effort has led to an on-going problem with a large number of postponed graduate program reviews. The Council suggested 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. This year the EC suggested that its members, prior GC faculty, and/or emeritus faculty be recruited for these reviews. This effort was only partially successful – while reviewers were found for most reviews, it was very difficult to recruit them. One possible solution would be to expand the GC membership by having a one-year overlap between outgoing and incoming representatives. This would also allow for a smoother transition.
- However, it has been extremely difficult to recruit faculty to this committee, largely because of workload perceptions. At one point, we stopped reviewing Cat II proposals from two Colleges in order to force them to appoint representatives.
- There has also been frustration on the part of GC members because so much of our time was spent on the university reorganization and review processes, and not as much on policy, which should be the primary concern of this committee.
- There is an on-going need to streamline graduate program reviews as departments continue to complain about the burden of preparing the self-study for the decadal review. In addition, programs need to collect data for yearly assessments, external accreditation, and the like. Last year the GC extensively discussed streamlining the graduate program review process, and was split concerning the

nature and quality of the data we should require. This year a concerted effort was made to identify a "minimum data set," which could be common among these differing review processes. We were discouraged to discover that there was actually very little overlap between the information that was required for different review purposes. Upon reflection, this made a certain amount of sense because different reviews are aimed at different portions of graduate programs – e.g., student success, faculty success, curriculum learning outcomes, etc. Only the graduate program review included all of these as well as assessments of university support for the program. However, the press of work from the reorganization meant there was insufficient time for the GC to pursue this further. We are encouraged that the Graduate School has been very pro-active in working with various branches of OSU to identify and collect a minimum data set, but we are concerned that GC may not have adequate opportunity for input into this process.

## 2011-2012 GRADUATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Walt Loveland '11, Chair*	Science
Mike Lerner '14	Science
Carolyn Aldwin '14**	Public Health and Human Sciences
Theresa Filtz '12	Pharmacy
Murray Levine '13	Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences
Jim Coakley '13	Business
Stacey Semevolos '13	Veterinary Medicine
Darrel Ross '14	Forestry
Andrew Plantinga '14	Agricultural Sciences
Denise Lach '12	Liberal Arts
Cass Dykeman '12	Education
Vinod Narayanan '12	Engineering

Student Member – Angi Baxter

Ex-Officio Members:

Graduate School Dean (Brenda McComb)  
Graduate School Associate Dean (Bruce Rettig)  
Graduate Admissions Committee Chair (Leah Minc)

Executive Committee Liaison – Kevin Gable

\*Chaired Fall term

\*\* Chaired Winter and Spring terms

### Graduate Council Representation:

Distance Education Committee – Cass Dykeman (ex-officio, non-voting)

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