

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2019 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
IRIC 105**

X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Gordon Murdoch (At-Large/CALS)	X	Jaap Vos (CAA)
X	Julie Amador (EHHS)	X	Mark Warner for Kelly Q (CLASS)	X	Elowyn Yager (At-Large/ENGR)
X	Jeff Bailey (CBE)	X	Alistair Smith (CNR)	X	Ata Zadehgo (ENGR)
X	Robert Heinse (At-Large/UWP)	X	Daniel Strawn (CALS)	X	Shiva Adhikari (GPSA)
X	Kristin Henrich (Library)	X	David Tank (COS)	X	Ananth Jillepalli (GPSA)

- I. Approval of the minutes from January 23, 2019
  
- II. Announcements and Reports
  - A. Grad Visit Days
    - Report: February 14-16 – STEM
    - Next date: March 21-23 – Non-STEM
  - B. 3MT Report
    - January 31 (Moscow)
    - February 12 (Boise)
  - C. Spring Events
    - Innovation Showcase – April 18
    - Commencement – May 11 – COGS needs 2 college marshals
  
- III. Discussion
  - A. Student Petition – Has D.A.T. wants to get Ph.D.
    - Allen Kitchel attended to speak to this petition.
    - It was passed unanimously.
  - B. Plus/Minus Grading Proposal (Woolley / Kumar)
    - Darryl Woolley and Kamal Kumar attended to speak on behalf of the committee who put forth this proposal.
    - Zadehgo reported that Engineering is in favor of plus/minus grading.
    - Heinse said in his department a few faculty are in favor, a few are indifferent, and most are opposed.
    - Murdoch surveyed 17 faculty. 2 are in favor, and the rest are opposed to plus/minus grading at the graduate level. The challenge at the graduate level is a B- would make a student ineligible for grant support.
    - Vos reported that CAA is in favor of it.
    - Yager said faculty she talked to is in favor of it.
    - Strawn likes the ability to distinguish more between students with plus/minus grades.
    - Bailey said the last time this came up most faculty were not in favor.
    - GPSA reps reported that students are concerned with B- grades. Jillepalli said no students he talked to were in favor of this proposal. All were indifferent or opposed to it.
    - Smith said CNR asked why “fix” something that isn’t broken?

- Questions/Answers:
    - Q: What is the benefit to graduate students? Woolley: it is more consistent with our peers. We are unique in not having this system.
    - Q: What % is a B-? Woolley: faculty will decide what the scale is. Not all faculty would be required to use the plus/minus system.
    - Q: Why no A+? Woolley: 4.0 is the maximum GPA. There is also no D- in this plan.
    - Q: Could "good academic standing" be lowered to 2.7? A: Maybe.
  - Kamal noted the committee felt this would help with students who transfer courses from other institutions with plus/minus grades. McMurtry reminded the group that transferred courses do not carry "weight," only the credits transfer without a grade attached.
  - McMurtry reminded the group of the InProgress (IP) grade policy. Currently, an IP grade on research credits signifies that the student is doing A, B, or P work. Murdoch said the catalog language would have to be changed to allow B-, B, B+, A-, A, or P for IP grades.
  - Tank said the committee needs to consider the effects this will have on graduate students and address those effects in the proposal.
  - Murdoch is not convinced that this increases accuracy.
  - Warner thinks it adds nuance.
  - Warner moved to approve. Seconded by Zadehgo.
    - Approved with 9 yes votes, 4 no votes, and 1 abstention.
- C. Continuous Registration/Finishing Fellowships
- CNR likes the idea of continuous registration policy. They feel this would benefit students who are considered ABD in that, it would reduce the amount they would have to pay to finish up their dissertations.
  - GPSA is opposed to reducing the number of semesters they may take off from 5 to 2. McMurtry said they could apply for an extension on their leave of absence.
  - College of Science is largely in favor of this.
  - Questions/answers:
    - Q: What data is there to support that this would work? A: Several other universities have a policy like this.
    - Q: Will this impact international students? A: former IPO director did not think it would matter. McMurtry will discuss it with the new director.
    - Q: Can the 1-year restriction on the leave of absence be lifted? A: The student can apply for a second year of leave.
    - Q: Can a student in continuous registration status be eligible for TA/RA? A: No. TA/RA must be full-time students.
    - Q: Do other institutions with these policies have completion rates that are better than ours? A: McMurtry will find out.
  - McMurtry asked to hear from professional programs. Amador doesn't think there will be a big impact in her department.
  - Smith said this will increase completion in their professional programs.
  - McMurtry said this program will allow us to better track the students.
  - McMurtry asked members to get feedback from their departments.
- D. Graduate Faculty Review Committee Update
- Amador reported there is pushback on clinical faculty not being able to serve as major professor, especially because many of them have Ph.D.'s.

- McMurtry said he can override that case-by-case.
  - McMurtry said he spoke with Liz Brandt. FSH 1565 is currently being changed. He will chat with her and find out what the proposed changes will be.
  - There was discussion about Extension Faculty and their ability to serve as major professor. Strawn disagrees with limitations on their ability to serve as MP. They are in remote locations and must be able to mentor grad students.
  - Members felt limitations on Research Faculty and Extension Faculty might prevent faculty from coming here. Mentoring graduate students and being a PI on grants are very important.
  - McMurtry will loop-in with Liz Brandt on this.
- E. JD/Applied Economics Concurrent Program
- Smith moved to approve. Seconded by Jillepalli.
  - Approved unanimously.

Adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Future Meetings:

March 27

April 10

April 24

All meetings will be on Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Pacific) in IRIC 105