

**Graduate Council Minutes  
September 17, 2014  
Commons Clearwater Room  
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

X	Jie Chen	X	Gordon Murdoch	-	Jon Van Gerpen
X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Diane Prorak	-	Jane Weiss
X	Courtney Conway	X	Sandra Reineke	X	Tao Xing
X	Ebenezer Jones-Mensah	X	Thomas Morrow		
X	Jill Johnson	X	Daniele Tonina		
X	Scott Minnich	X	Greg Turner-Rahman		

- I. Approval of the minutes from April 30, 2014
  - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Jones-Mensah seconded.
  - Approved unanimously.
  
- II. Announcements and reports
  - A. Introduction of New Members
    - Members introduced themselves.
    - Chen introduced Rance Larsen, new Director of Graduate Admissions to Council. Larsen spoke briefly about his background.
  - B. Enrollment Report
    - Chen reported that new students are up just over 6%; continuing students are down 8%; which means graduate enrollment is down 4.2% AY2014-15.
    - Chen encouraged members to share reasons for the decline in enrollment.
  - C. Debrief on India Trip
    - McMurtry told Council about his recent trip to India. He reported that it was a useful trip and that he met with over 700 well-qualified students. All students he spoke with met our minimums. McMurtry reported that he will send names of some students to appropriate faculty for follow-up.
  - D. AGEP Grant
    - McMurtry told Council about the \$600,000 AGEP grant that UI was just awarded. It begins Oct 1 and is geared toward getting Native American and Alaska Native students into STEM programs. \$2.4M was awarded amongst a 4 school alliance – WSU, Montana, Montana State, and UI. This is the largest NSF AGEP grant that has been awarded to date.
  - E. Exit Survey
    - McMurtry reported that of the 430 students who graduated in Spring 14, 197 responded to the survey. 46%
    - He said the data is still being crunched.
    - Conway asked if college-specific questions have been added to the exit survey yet. McMurtry said not yet. He will send a request for questions to each dean's office.
    - Conway asked if the exit survey has been made mandatory for students to complete in order to apply for degree. McMurtry said he is working with ITS to make that happen. He hopes to have it in place by 2015.
    - Morrow will review the survey and give COGS feedback.

F. Defense Deadlines

- McMurtry talked about the necessity to create earlier defense deadlines and pointed to the new deadlines that were included in the meeting materials.

III. Discussion

A. Law Faculty on Graduate Council

- Chen told Council he met with Mark Adams, the new dean of the College of Law. He agrees with the task force's findings that they did not provide enough rationale to consider allowing J.D.'s to serve as major professors for Ph.D. candidates.
- Chen also reported that Adams agreed that Graduate Council should consider rewriting the College of Graduate Studies Bylaws to include a seat for a College of Law faculty member on Graduate Council.
- Chen asked the task force to reconvene and draft new bylaws language concerning including a law faculty seat on Graduate Council. – Article 6, Section 2.

B. G.P.A. Requirements for Graduation

- Steve Chandler joined the meeting to discuss an issue his department has with the current rules concerning the minimum G.P.A. required for completion of a graduate degree.  
- He reported there is currently a student in the TESL program who received C's and 1 D on his coursework and was placed on probation. During the summer he took some 100-200 level foreign language courses to pad his G.P.A. The overall G.P.A. will be above 3.0; however, the G.P.A. in the classes on his study plan will be below 3.0.
- Chandler asked COGS and Graduate Council to consider making a change to the catalog language to require study plan coursework to have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0, in addition to the UI G.P.A. requirements.
- Chen recommended forming a task force to study this G.P.A. issue and the impact/ramifications, best practices, and recommendations.
- Council members had a good discussion about the issue and expressed agreement that with Chandler's proposal.
- Conway made a motion to change the catalog to require a 3.0 G.P.A. on coursework included on the approved study plan in order to graduate.  
- Seconded by Morrow.  
- Approved unanimously.
- McMurtry will work on catalog language, and it will be brought to the next meeting for vote.

Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Future Meetings:

October 1 – Commons Clearwater – **CANCELLED**

October 22 – Commons Clearwater

November 19 – Commons Aurora – **NEW DATE** (was originally scheduled for November 12)

All meetings are on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. Pacific.