

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**  
**October 18, 2017 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**IRIC 321**

X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Ben Hunter		Alistair Smith
X	Esmael Alyami	X	Stacy Isenbarger		Fahmid Tousif
	Julie Amador - phone	X	Jill Johnson	X	Daniel Strawn
X	Dan Eveleth	X	Gordon Murdoch	X	Elowyn Yager - phone
	Laura Holyoke	X	Kelly Quinnett	X	Ata Zadehgol

- I. Approval of the minutes from September 27, 2017
  - Eveleth moved to approve. Seconded by Isenbarger. Approved with one abstention.
  
- II. Announcements and Reports
  - A. Dissertation Committee Report
    - Isenbarger and Quinnett will work together on a thesis statement.
      - Warner offered to help. McMurtry asked for others to volunteer for this sub-committee.
    - A statement also needs to be made for a terminal Master's.
    - 2 separate statements will exist, one for thesis and one for dissertation.
  - B. Tentative Admission Based on Language
    - McMurtry said there needs to be tentative admissions language for seniors who apply before final grades are recorded.
    - For international students, he suggested they consider using the mid-term grade for the students' final term in ALCP when reviewing the application file. He suggested they review the ALCP grade again after final grades are recorded, and if the student ends up failing ALCP then their admission/acceptance will be reversed.
  - C. Feedback from departments re: P/NP grades and the elimination of IP.
    - Faculty in the College of Engineering feel strongly that IP grades should not be eliminated, as reported by Yager and Zadehgol.
  
- III. Discussion
  - A. 2nd PhD for Engineering Student
    - Zadehgol met with faculty in ECE, and they want to accept this student to pursue this degree.
    - Concerns/questions from councilmembers:
      - Is this a unique degree?  
A: Yes. This is totally different from the Master's and first Ph.D. degrees.
      - Why would this student not just pursue a postdoc instead of another degree?  
A: His Ph.D. is not in Electrical Engineering, so he cannot have a postdoc in EE. And, the department does not have funding for a postdoc.
      - Concern that this might set a precedent for departments to try to bring in future students for a second Ph.D. rather than pay the higher postdoc salary and

benefits. Can there be language written to prevent this faculty from doing this again?

A: Catalog language can be written to address this concern.

- Will this make the student more marketable/valuable?

A: Yes. What he wants to study is more relevant to current time, so it will make him more valuable.

- Johnson suggests we should not want to deny this person the opportunity.

- Zadehgol moved to allow this student to pursue a second Ph.D. Seconded by Johnson. Approved unanimously.
- Council had consensus to allow the major professor to create the student's study plan from the classes provided with the request.

#### B. Curriculum Items

##### 1. Architecture Curriculum Change (Teal)

- Eveleth moved to approve. Seconded by Murdoch. Approved unanimously.

##### 2. MA-English Curriculum Change (James)

- They are trying to fold the Master of Teaching English into the Master of English degree. This is a byproduct of the Focus for the Future exercise a few years ago.
- Murdoch moved to approve. Seconded by Isenbarger. Approved unanimously.

##### 3. MSAT Curriculum Change

- Tabled until next meeting.

##### 4. Grad Certificate in Critical Infrastructure Resilience Curriculum Change

- 2 changes: Change special topics course TM504 to a "permanent" course – TM517. Change electives ECE 504 to ECE 469/569.
- Suggestion was made to remove 469 from this curriculum because the student would need to take it at the 569 level.
- McMurtry asked them to add a statement that 50% of the coursework must be at the 500 level. Zadehgol will take this back to the department and have that statement added.

#### C. Conditional Admission Language

- McMurtry introduced language for conditional admission. He reported that not all departments allow conditional admission.
- If a student gets conditional admission, they can get fully admitted by:
  1. Successfully complete ALCP 6
  2. Get appropriate scores on the TOELF or IELTS test.
- Murdoch moved to approve. Seconded by Eveleth. Approved unanimously.

#### D. Graduate Assistants

- McMurtry introduced a definition for a third Graduate Assistant position. This has been vetted through Wes Matthews.
- Concerns/issues:
  - Currently they are titled "Graduate Research Assistant" and "Graduate Teaching Assistant." It was suggested for consistency, the third position should have an additional word; such as, "Graduate Support Assistant" rather than "Graduate Assistant."
  - McMurtry will take this back to Wes.

E. Guiding Principles for TA Reallocation

- McMurtry suggested that with changes to TA funding on the horizon, we need to start over with how to assign TA's. He researched and came up with guiding principles for assigning TA's.
- Questions/concerns:
  - #4 says that TA positions should be given primarily to students seeking terminal degrees. Why is that?  
A: McMurtry looked at other universities, and this is what they do.  
Warner: The vast majority of TA's in CLASS are not on tract to get terminal degrees. This language is potentially dangerous. This might drive funding for TA's to other colleges.
  - When would these principles be used?  
A: When considering how/who to give TA funding to.
  - #1 says "...effort primarily with UG lower division courses..." Would this preclude departments from hiring TA's to teach upper division labs and courses?  
A: This would not preclude that. The language says "primarily," which allows some flexibility.
  - There is concern that with parameters like this, you will create an environment of policing departments.  
McMurtry: These are intended as guidelines.
  - Are these guiding principles for TA's only or for all Graduate Assistants?  
A: TA's only.
  - It is better to set up guiding principles that work for the majority. #1 and #4 will not work for CALS.
  - It was suggested to remove "lower division" from #1 or change #1 to "...lower division courses and labs/studio..."
- McMurtry asked councilmembers to put some thought to this and send him an email with any suggestions or concerns. He will send it through the deans.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27.

Future Fall Meetings:

November 29

All meetings are on Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. Pacific in IRIC 321.