

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
 January 23, 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	Kelly Quinnett (CLASS)	X	Elowyn Yager (At-Large/ENGR)
X	Robert Heinse (At-Large/UWP)	X	Luigi Boschetti for A. Smith (CNR)	X	Ata Zadehgo (ENGR)
X	Kristin Henrich (Library)	X	Daniel Strawn (CALS)	X	Shiva Adhikari (GPSA)
X	John Lawrence (CBE)	X	David Tank (COS)	X	Ananth Jillepalli (GPSA)

- I. Approval of the minutes from November 14, 2018
 - Tank moved to approve. Quinnett seconded.
 - Approved with two abstention.
- II. Announcements and Reports
 - A. Grad Visit Days
 - February 14-16 - STEM fields
 - March 21-23 - Non-STEM
 - a) 19 registered for the first visit day
 - b) Departments should take advantage of this opportunity
 - B. 3MT - New date: January 31 (Moscow); February 12 (Boise)
 - Can past winners compete in Boise competition? Past winners will have to compete again in UI January competition to qualify.
 - C. COGS Awards for Excellence - nominations due by January 25, 2019.
 - New this year: Post-doc awards
 - McMurtry reminded council to encourage nominations to outstanding individuals
 - D. UBFC Request
 - Due by February: COGS will request one to enhance student support services and one for the post-doc organization. Last time the request was denied but this year the numbers are different, but packages the same
 - E. PSM Update
 - Deans will review course redesigns this Summer
 - If approved, UI will be the first National Model for such a program
 - Courses will be labeled INTR - interdisciplinary
 - F. Post doc Organization
 - 67 post docs
 - Lead by two post-docs, one from science, and one from CNR
 - Good support for post-docs
- III. Discussion
 - A. Food Science Petition
 - Non-Thesis Master student in FS requests an additional committee member to serve on his committee (three grad faculty committee

members already on committee) who only has a B.S. in F.S., but 20 years of industry experience.

- Student's MP supports this—states his experience is equivalent to knowledge gained in MS program and that current faculty in FS do not have this level of dairy proteins
- This petition was originally denied by COGS Dean, but is brought to Grad Council as an appeal
- Discussion that the individual can attend committee meetings and advise without officially sitting on committee
- Adhikari inquires on the reasoning of requesting this additional committee member; McMurtry states that individual wants to be recognized, but this could be done in the acknowledgements of the thesis.
- Strawn states that MP should discuss with the department head on options of including this individual without placing them on committee and giving them a vote.
- Murdoch moved to deny. Zadehgol seconds.
- Denied unanimously

B. Plus/Minus Grading Proposal (Flores)

- Stephan Flores brings the Teaching and Advising Committee recommendation of a plus/minus grading system to be implemented at UI beginning Fall 2023.
- Previously this proposal was brought to Grad Council and voted 7 in favor with two abstentions, but was vetoed by ASUI President Tim White (05/04/05). (Flores said one abstention supported the change but didn't want to take a side as an administrator).
- A 19 page report with survey data from UI was posted in late October regarding this proposal. One point is that this system is used in many neighboring Universities such as Lewis Clark State College, WSU, and UI College of Law. The report also addresses faculty concerns, and addresses necessary changes to the Catalog.
- Flores states that the differences of perspective on this question may have been decided by valuing and prioritizing adopting a grading system that allows for determining grades that more closely commensurate with faculty's evaluations of students' academic performance.
- Flores states that 78% of faculty agreed plus/minus system would help make more nuanced decisions. Also stated that the Registrar said this grade switch will not be a difficult change to implement.
- Lawrence expressed that waiting until 2023 is too long and should happen in 2020 or 2021. Tank agreed. Flores stated that a later date might make it more successful with ASUI. Lawrence said if change is implemented in 2023, incoming students should be made aware of upcoming change.

- Boschetti says change could be made immediately, but suggests that letter grades be worth the same. So students will get used to the idea before it is implemented with the values of plus and minuses added to the letter grades. He indicated that he believes waiting will cause the proposal to be vetoed by ASUI again.
- Murdoch said that although he doesn't oppose this change, that percentages would be the most accurate grading system. He stated that rubrics in some classes are inaccurate. He gave an example of BIOL 115 Lab where if you miss 2 points you can't get an A, while other courses are not as stringent. He said that for a system to be completely fair for students, each course would need to be assessed individually because rubrics for assessing courses are liberal and based on the instructor's system.
- Strawn stated he approved of the plus/minus grading system proposal
- McMurtry asked if Flores had worked with GPSA in developing this system and Flores answered no, because the data in their studies was focused on undergrads, but that graduate students would follow next.
- McMurtry noted that this change would affect grad students because a B- would put them on probation.
- Boschetti stated that it is a fallacy to state that a B- is an improvement because a B- in the current system would be a C.
- Flores stated that students would need a B+ to offset a B-
- Lawrence suggested that if this change were implemented, perhaps the rules could be changed to put grad students on probation once their GPA hits 2.7 rather than a GPA of 2.9, but still only allow them to graduate with a cumulative total of 3.0 or above.
- Boschetti suggested that the proposal should create a table of corresponding old and new grades with this system so that students could better understand what changes are being implemented
- Flores agreed and stated that he believes students do not understand the statistics and that the new system would not affect many.
- Adhikari asked what a B+ would be worth in the new system, and Flores responded 3.3
- Flores stated the next steps with this proposal are a meeting with ASUI leadership at 5 p.m. today (January 23). He stated the proposal was brought to Faculty Senate previously, but there was no discussion on it, but it will be presented to them again, with a chance for discussion this time.
- McMurtry stated that GPSA should be involved with this proposal and Flores agreed. GPSA President Jillepalli stated he would be willing to help with the proposal.

C. Grade Requirements for Transferring Courses from Non-Degree

- Currently the Catalog states that students may only transfer classes from their Undergraduate transcript to their Graduate transcript if the classes have a grade of A or B. Currently there is no grade requirement for transferring courses from a Non-Degree transcript to a Graduate transcript.
- McMurtry states this discussion is to consider that classes from a Non-Degree transcript should only be allowed to transfer to a Graduate transcript if the grade is an A or B because a C grade would negatively affect a grad student's GPA and could potentially put them on probation.
- McMurtry mentioned that transfer classes from other institutions do not have an A or B letter grade requirement and that incoming transfer classes from other universities do not affect the GPA, they only count as credits.
- Amador asked if non-degree transfer credits affect the total number of credits allowed to transfer to a Master's degree (12) and McMurtry answered yes - Master's students are allowed to have up to 12 of a combination of transfer, non-degree, or over-aged credits.
- Tank said he doesn't believe a grade of A or B should be required to transfer non-degree credits because the students should be able to figure out the possible GPA repercussions on their own.
- Murdoch pointed out that a low GPA due to transferring C graded classes to the graduate transcript could hinder an incoming student from receiving a grant supported stipend.
- Jillepalli expressed support for this non-degree transfer grade proposal because some students might not be diligent enough to consider the possible repercussions.
- Tank suggested that the policy of requiring credits from any transcript to have an A or B letter grade before being able to be transferred to the graduate transcript should be abolished.
- Lawrence noticed that the current policy states that 300-level courses cannot be transferred to a graduate transcript, but he has seen some grad students that have 300-level classes on their study plan. McMurtry confirmed this and stated that although 300-level classes cannot be transferred to the graduate transcript, a graduate student may take a 300-level class in a supporting area (not their major) and use it on their study plan.
- McMurtry stated that he does not expect a vote on this proposal, as he needs to speak with the Registrar further regarding this, but that he wanted to bring it to the council member's attention and that he will bring it up again at the next meeting.

D. New Graduate Faculty Training

- McMurtry stated he has a potential proposal to create training for Faculty who wish to join Graduate Faculty. He wants to hear the Graduate Council's opinion on this proposal.

- McMurtry stated the training would be a one-time requirement for the new Graduate Faculty, and that current Graduate Faculty members would be grandfathered in (not required to take the training).
- Quinnett expressed approval of this proposal and other council members murmured agreement.
- McMurtry said the incentive to complete this training is that a Faculty member who is not currently part of Graduate Faculty would not be allowed to serve as Major Professor until the training was completed.
- McMurtry stated the training could include subjects such as what IP grades mean, for example.
- McMurtry stated that individual modules of the training could also be made available online for all Faculty, in case they are interested in refreshing their knowledge in certain areas.
- McMurtry stated the training will standardize knowledge across all UI campuses and that he will sketch out a draft of this proposal to bring to the council at a later date.

E. Continuous Registration

- McMurtry stated that the current annual enrollment policy allows a student to sit out for 5 semesters and still be considered active, but other universities require students to pay a continuous registration fee. McMurtry proposes a new continuous registration policy that would require graduate students to be continuously enrolled during the Fall and Spring semesters. McMurtry stated that no voting will occur today, but this proposal is brought up to graduate council for discussion and review.
- The proposal states that students not taking classes or working on their thesis or dissertation could register for GRAD 999 which is not credit bearing, and is offered at a lower rate than a regular credit (\$150-\$250), but keeps them continuously enrolled.
The proposal states that alternatively, these students could request a Leave of Absence petition that could allow them to continue in their program without being registered, but the Leave of Absence could be no more than a year.
- The proposal also states that Master's students who have completed their study plan and doctoral candidates who have completed their preliminary examination and study plan could have the option of enrolling in GRAD 900, which is not credit bearing, but is offered at a lower rate than a regular graduate credit and will keep them continuously enrolled while they complete their Thesis or Dissertation.
- Students may only enroll in GRAD 900 for a maximum of two consecutive semesters. After that, students must enroll in credit bearing courses.
- Students enrolled in GRAD 900 allows students to enroll in SHIP (McMurtry stated he is still working on the details of this), and access the library/labs, but does not allow student loan deferral or TA/RA positions.

- Students not enrolled in courses, or GRAD 999/900, will be required to apply for re-enrollment. Students not enrolled for two or more consecutive terms (excluding Summer) must apply for re-admission.
- McMurtry stated that the advantage of this proposal is that students who have finished their study plan will not have to pay full price while finishing their thesis or dissertation, and that funding for these students could be moved to incoming students.
- Tank expressed approval of the proposal
- McMurtry stated there will be no vote on this today, but would like feedback on this by the next graduate council meeting.

F. Graduate Faculty Review Committee Update

- Quinnett and Murdoch have been working on revising the language of the Faculty Staff handbook in regards to clinical faculty.
- Quinnett stated there are issues with clinical faculty in regards to where they fit in and how to address them as having graduate faculty status.
- Murdoch stated the council will look over the revisions they have made, section by section, and will give McMurtry the power to veto any proposed changes if necessary.
- In Article II-Membership: Section 1, Quinnett noted that Emeriti Faculty are evaluated for graduate faculty status every two years, and suggested that perhaps clinical faculty should be assessed in this manner as well.
- Boschetti states that he doesn't see a problem with Emeritus Faculty not being reviewed for graduate faculty membership because they are not paid and Emeritus faculty will eventually phase out on their own. He noted that adding a reviewal clause could also apply to research faculty, which could be problematic.
- The proposed additions and edits to Section 2: Member Privileges are read to the graduate council.
- Tank pointed out that Assistant Professors are not included in the list of those able to join graduate faculty. Murdoch acknowledged this and stated they will amend this to include assistant professors as it was not their intent to exclude them.
- Heinse stated they should amend with statement: "Must had PhD or DAT to serve on DAT committee" and "DAT can only serve on DAT committees."
- McMurtry agreed to assist with amending the language of this section.
- Murdoch moves to table this discussion due to amendments needing to be added.

G. McMurtry provided the list of WRGP eligible degrees to the graduate council. These degrees will be WRGP eligible beginning in Fall 2019. McMurtry stated that the university will deal with current students already enrolled in these programs on a case-by-case basis.

H. Graduate Council meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.