

GAAC: Graduate Academic Advisory Committee of the UAF Faculty Senate

2011-10-25 Meeting Minutes

Present:

Voting: Orion Lawlor, Vincent Cee, Chung-Sang Ng, Lara Horstmann, Xiong Zhang
Ex officio: Timothy Bartholomaus, Anita Hughes, Laura Bender, Larry Duffy

GAAC course items and assignments are listed in [this Google Doc](#), with supplementary information in [Jayne's official GAAC curriculum page](#). Thanks to those who've volunteered!

Discussion of proposed Thursday evening master's hooding ceremony, a separate ceremony to honor graduate students separate from the main ceremony. Tim recommends bundling Masters and PhD ceremonies, rather than splitting out Master's students only. It would be interesting to measure the time taken to (1) just read the names (2) read thesis titles, and (3) perform hooding. Thursday is not an ideal day for this, due to student and advisor final exams, but they're discussing moving graduation itself to Saturday, and the rehearsal to Friday, so the best possible schedule is unclear. There was once a Thursday night banquet for PhD students, but it went away due to the expense of a catered banquet.

The latest international student degree completion policy reads "Graduate students, who are enrolled only in thesis or project credits (and no other coursework) have their official completion date as either (1) two months from the thesis or project defense date, or (2) the approval date on the Report of Thesis/Dissertation Defense form or the Report on Project Defense form when signed by the academic department chair, whichever is earlier." This means thesis advisors for international students should be careful to sign the Report on Defense paperwork only after the students' thesis is really complete. GAAC recommendations:

- Add a disclaimer about signature date to the Report Defense form itself, for advisors, department heads, and international students, who may not be aware of the policy.
- Somehow, this information should percolate out to department heads.

What date shows up in Banner for degree completion? Right now, degrees get confirmed, posted, and then mailed out at the end of the semester in an enormous rush. The registrar is discussing changing to a system where after the degree audit, the degree gets "posted" into Banner, then confirmed at the end of the semester.

Stacked courses subgroup update: we are seeking a list of instructors for stacked courses. Lara suggested examining IAS scores for stacked courses, which are theoretically public information.

Next meeting: Tues, Nov 22 at 3pm.