

Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee 2012-2013 End-of-Year report

Donie Bret-Harte, Chair

Members: Cheng-fu Chen, Chung-sang Ng, Elisabeth Nadin, Franz Mueter, John Yarie, Lara Horstmann, Michael Daku, Vincent Cee, Wayne Marr, Karen Jensen, Timothy Bartholomaeus, Olivia Eddy (ex-officio), Lillian Misel (ex-officio), Laura Bender (ex-officio), John Eichelberger (ex-officio)

GAAC reviewed three course and program proposals carried over from the previous academic year, 5 trial course proposals, and 53 course and program proposals submitted in the 2012-2013 academic year. Most of these were approved, usually after revisions to bring them into alignment with UAF Faculty Senate requirements for course syllabi. Eight proposals were carried forward to the next academic year, because requested revisions had not been received by the end of the academic year.

One proposal, to add a Master of Music program and simultaneously delete the existing Master of Arts in Music program, was objected to by another faculty senator within 10 days of its receipt by GAAC. GAAC met with those who objected to the proposal, and separately, with those in favor of the proposal. After hearing from both sides, GAAC members concluded that the differences between those who objected and those in favor were relatively minor. The objectors expressed that they are in favor of establishing a new Master of Music program, but raised concerns about some of the proposed requirements and credit hours, and about how to accommodate students with broader interests who are currently served by the Master of Arts in Music program. On all of the specific issues raised in the discussions, the two sides did not seem to be far apart, and indeed some issues have already been resolved. GAAC believes that it would be in the best interests of the Music graduate students to resolve this dispute harmoniously. In addition, the Provost confirmed that a proposal to establish a new program must be separate from a proposal to delete an existing program, so the paperwork will need revision in any event. GAAC declined to pass the proposal as it now exists, and instead urged the Music Department to discuss these issues and work to find consensus on how to go forward. GAAC will review revised documents in the fall of 2013.

In addition to review of program and course proposals, GAAC passed two motions and a resolution. The first motion required that the office of Admissions and the Registrar distinguish Master's degrees within the student's transcript as "Master's with thesis" or "Master's with project" in the title of the degree granted when applicable. The accompanying resolution reaffirmed the Faculty Senate's previous motion to require that both theses and projects for Master's of Arts and Master's of Science degrees be archived in the Rasmuson Library, and to put this requirement into the UAF Catalog. The second motion was to change the UAF Catalog wording in the section relating to Master's and Ph.D. degrees to include the following language pertaining to graduate degrees: "You must be registered for a minimum of three graduate credits within your discipline and maintain enrollment the semester that you successfully defend your thesis and you must be registered for a minimum of one graduate credit within your discipline and maintain enrollment during the semester that you graduate."

All of the motions, resolutions, and new programs passed by GAAC were subsequently passed by the UAF Faculty Senate.

GAAC would like to thank Jayne Harvie for her help in making our meetings accessible to those members who couldn't be there in person, and her generous assistance with all aspects of Faculty Senate procedures and actions. Her institutional knowledge of the Senate was very valuable, and we appreciate her assistance.