

Agenda for February 28, 2011 GAAC Meeting

9:00-10:00 a.m.

408 Rasmuson Library (Kayak Room)

Call-in number: 1-800-893-8850

Participants' PIN: 1109306

1. Discussion/modification/approval of agenda
2. Discussion/approval of minutes from 2-21-2011 meeting
3. Discussion item related to stacked courses (attached)

4. Review of GAAC proposals already discussed (review leader is listed first, followed by the secondary reviewers)

- 19-GNC_ATM F666 - Atmospheric Remote Sensing (Donie, Jen, Xiong)
- 25-GNC_ATM F678 - Mesoscale Dynamics (Xiong, Jen, Sue)
- 38-GNC_EE F646 Wireless Sensor Networks (Orion, Donie, Lara)
- 39-GNC_EE F668 Radar Systems (Orion, Donie, Lara)
- 40-GNC_EE F675 Robot Modeling and Control (Orion, Donie, Lara)
- 27-GNP_Master of Arts in Political Science and related courses [28-GNC, 29-GNC, 20-GNC] (Ken, Jen, Regine)

5. Review of new GAAC proposals

- 10-Tr_Trial Course: FISH F694 - Climate Change and Fisheries: Ecological and Evolutionary Responses (Ken, Lara)
- 99-GCCh_BIOL F675 / 475 - Vegetation Description and (Ken, Jen, Amber)
- 11-Tr_Trial-GEOG-F694 (F494) Climate Change Processes: Past, Present, Future [previously listed as 98-GCCh] (Jen, Ken, Amber)
- 100-GPCh.: Program Change: M.Ed. - New concentration in Instructional Technology Innovation: (Sue, Anupma, Orion)
- 101-GNC_ED F650 - Current Issues in Technology (Anupma, Orion, Sue)
- 102-GNC_ED F651 - Web 2.0 Fundamentals: Participate, Produce, Publish (Orion, Sue, Anupma)
- 103-GNC_ED F652 - Fundamentals of Media Design (Sue, Anupma, Orion)
- 104-GNC_ED F653 - Instructional Design (Sue, Anupma, Orion)

- 105-GNC_ED F654 - Digital Citizenship, Internet Legal Issues, Digital Copyright and Fair Use (Orion, Sue, Anupma)
- 106-GNC_ED F655 - Online Pedagogy (Orion, Sue, Anupma)
- 107-GNC_ED F676 - Supporting Learning in Diverse Systems (Anupma, Orion, Sue)
- 108-GNC_ED F677 - Digital Storytelling (Anupma, Orion, Sue)

6. Request for volunteers to review new GAAC proposals

- 109-GNC_MSL F622 Tides – Their Nature and Impacts
- 110-GNC_MSL F663 (F463) Chemical Coastal Processes

Draft Minutes

February 21, 2011 GAAC Meeting

9:00-10:00 a.m.

341 Rasmuson Library

Voting members present: Ken A. (Chair), Sue Renes, Lara Dehn (phone), Amber Thomas (phone), Jen Schmidt (phone), Orion Lawlor, Anupma Prakash

Ex officio members present: Larry Duffy, Laura Bender, Anita Hughes

Guest: Jayne H. (Notes)

1. Discussion/modification/approval of agenda

98-GCCh_GEOG F612 – Geography of Climate and Environmental Change, listed under item 4 of the agenda, has become a trial course submission (#11-Trial).

2. Minutes from 2-14-2011 meeting were approved.

3. GAAC proposals approved (review leader is listed first, followed by the secondary reviewers).

- **41-GPCh_Ph.D. - Fisheries Modify Admission Requirements** (Amber, Lara, Jen)

While it was noted that the changes raised the bar to get into the program, this was seen as positive by the majority of the committee. It was noted that a student without any published papers, can still be admitted to the program with faculty endorsements. Larry mentioned that the number one predictor of success in Ph.D. programs is undergraduate research. The proposal was unanimously approved by GAAC.

- **42-GPCh_M.S. Fisheries - Expand elective course requirements** (Amber, Lara, Jen)

Amber noted this one consisted of straightforward changes to electives. Lara provided some background to the changes. The unit is adding a human dimension component to the electives as they have some Rasmuson Foundation funding. The proposal was unanimously approved by GAAC.

- **43-GNC_FISH F680 - Marine Sustainability Internship** (Amber, Lara, Jen)

While there was a question about the summer and fall parts of the course, Lara resolved this issue and the proposal was unanimously approved by GAAC.

4. GAAC proposals discussed, but not yet approved.

- **19-GNC_ATM F666 - Atmospheric Remote Sensing** (Donie, Jen, Xiong)

The course syllabus needs modifications (e.g., goals and outcomes, determination of points in course). Jen will email the instructor.

- **25-GNC_ATM F678 - Mesoscale Dynamics** (Xiong, Jen, Sue)

The syllabus needs modifications (e.g., concern about tone of the syllabus, lack of alignment between the grading table and the projects that are listed). Ken will follow up on this course.

- **38-GNC_EE F646 Wireless Sensor Networks** (Orion, Donie, Lara)

While the instructor is working on a revised syllabus, there was agreement that this proposal can not go forward until more detail is added to the syllabus.

- 39-GNC_EE F668 Radar Systems (Orion, Donie, Lara)

The course syllabus needs modifications. While the course is similar to an existing Geoscience course, the material is a subset of that course. If changes aren't received, it may be best to ask the instructor to re-submit this course as a new proposal after the required changes are made.

- 40-GNC_EE F675 Robot Modeling and Control (Orion, Donie, Lara)

Orion has received some changes. Lara noted that there are no course policies included in the syllabus. Review was delayed until the next meeting.

- 27-GNP_MA in Political Science and related courses (GAAC proposals 28, 29, and 30)

Ken commented on the facts that a new dean will be coming to CLA in the near future, and that UA President Gamble has stated that he will not forward new program funding requests to the legislature. The support of Northern Studies faculty for this new program is conditioned on Northern Studies keeping its current TA positions. Since the proposed MA in Political Science requires new TA positions, approval of this program by the administration is doubtful unless new funding is found. There are also concerns about the quality of the new program related to the number of stacked courses in the degree requirements and the appropriateness of the internship option as an alternative to the traditional thesis requirement. Finally, it was noted that the number of required credits differs between the two options (i.e., 31-33 for the Environmental concentration, 34-36 for the Arctic Policy concentration. Approval of this program does not need to be rushed. Therefore, the issues will be discussed with the provost and will be discussed again.

Due to lack of time, the remaining items on the agenda were not discussed and will be added to the agenda for the next meeting on February 28.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.

PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSION

In order to ensure that 400/600 stacked courses TRULY are two different courses taught at the same time that simultaneously do not overtax undergraduates and sufficiently challenge graduate students, we enact the following requirements for such courses:

Each part of the two courses will have a separate syllabus that contains significant differences justifying 400 vs. 600 level. These differences will be apparent on at least a weekly basis and not merely an extra assignment added at the end of the course (e.g., a term paper). Such differences will be such that each of the different versions will have different (a) reading assignments, (b) homework assignments, and (c) exams and each will be graded separately.

Further, these regulations and examples of contrasting types of assignments will appear in the course and degree handbook.

Rationale:

STACKED 400/600 LEVEL COURSES ARE VITAL TO OUR MS PROGRAMS. That said, existing regulations are too vague to provide insurance that 400 and 600 levels are actually both presented when stacked together.

Existing Faculty Senate regulations relative to stacked courses:

400 level (senior) courses may be double listed ("stacked") as 400/600. The 600 level version of the course must require additional student effort, such as a seminar or a term paper, to reflect the greater acuity that we expect from graduate students.

Courses are also sometimes offered simultaneously at different levels (100/200 or 400/600, for example) with higher level credit requiring additional effort and possibly higher order prerequisites from the student. Such courses are referred to as "Stacked" courses and are designated in the class listings by "Stacked with ____". In the case of 400/600 level stacked courses, graduate standing or permission of the instructor is required for graduate enrollment and a higher level of effort and performance is required on the part of students earning graduate credit.