

Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2011

9:00-10:00 a.m.

408 Rasmuson Library (Kayak Room)

Voting members present: Ken A. (chair); Lara D.; Regine H.; Orion L.; Anupma P.; Jen S.

Non-voting members present: Anita H., Karen I, Larry D., Laura B., Libby E.

Guest: Roy Roehl, School of Education

Other: Jayne (notes)

1. Discussion/modification/approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

2. Discussion/approval of minutes from 3-28-2011 meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Review of new GAAC proposals

- 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)

Discussion focused on concerns whether some of the courses were graduate-level and appropriate for a Master's degree. The committee recognized the good direction of the proposed new concentration in the M.Ed., but asked about the impact of eight new courses on the department, and why the two core courses were taught by adjuncts, not regular faculty. The sustainability of the program was questioned, as long-term base FTEs are needed to succeed.

Dr. Roehl noted that the individuals teaching the two core courses have a Master's or Ph.D. degree. Carol Goering at CDE has a master's. Chris Lott has a bachelor's but will work on a master's. The core courses are online and F601 currently has 17 students, including students from Japan and Nevada. Skip Via has a master's and has 27 years of experience in the school district. Don Peterson has a master's.

Anupma asked about the three options of project, thesis or comprehensive oral exam, noting the program name does not change for any of these routes. Roy explained that they want the students to complete a project; the mention of the exam is part of the M.Ed. program which they do not control.

Ken asked if these courses exist at the undergraduate level. Roy said no. Orion asked about offerings as 500-level professional development rather than graduate level. Roy shared a handout describing graduate level courses as defined by the NWCCU. Ken noted that UA Board of Regents has established regulations that describe the difference between 400-, 500-, and 600-level courses.

Anupma asked if students could complete the degree without meeting their instructors. Roy said they plan to have meetings during the semester where they have face-to-face interaction. It was noted that the syllabi state there is no synchronous interaction during the course, but Roy noted he has call-in times on his schedule that even include weekends. Orion expressed concern that some courses may not meet the number of contact hours of instruction that are required for UAF courses.

It was agreed after more discussion about the rigor of the program, to have Roy meet with three GAAC members to address concerns. Orion will take the lead in setting that up.

4. Discussion items

A. F-I students (Regine)

Regine and Ken spoke to the issue of how degree completion is defined at the Office of International Programs. UAF takes a conservative stance, defining degree completion by students as occurring ten business days after thesis defense. Many other universities interpret the "completion of the program" differently.

Ken noted that VC Mike Sfraga oversees OIP; and Carol Holz carries legal liability for her role. It may be helpful to acquire a legal opinion from an attorney specializing in immigration law.

The consensus was that approaching the problem by having students enroll in a one-credit course was an unsatisfactory approach to deal with this issue.

A Wednesday morning meeting time to refine the motion / resolution (in time for the senate Administrative Committee meeting) was set up. [At this Wednesday meeting a resolution was drafted by Anupma, Ken, Jayne and Regine. After a round of email comments and revisions, GAAC approved the final resolution by email.]

Other items on the agenda were postponed due to time constraints.