

Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 8/30/12

Present: Donie Bret-Harte*, John Yarie*, Mike Daku*, Franz Mueter* (on the phone), Vince Cee*, Lillian Misel, Laura Bender, Cheng-Fu Chen*, Tim Bartholomaus, Lara Horstmann* (on the phone), Libby Eddy, Larry Duffy, Jayne Harvie, special guest Cathy Hanks

* Voting members

4 agenda items:

- 1) choose Chair of GAAC for fall
- 2) Department of Petroleum Engineering Master's theses (Cathy Hanks)
- 3) Biology Department termination of MAT program (in email from Jayne)
- 4) Biology Department trial course

1) GAAC votes to confirm Donie Bret-Harte as Chair of GAAC

2) Cathy Hanks presented about the M.S. program in Petroleum Engineering. In this program, a student can get an M.S. with either a thesis or a project. The requirements for thesis and project, and the level of oversight, are different. She reported a desire for greater vetting of projects, and a concern that confusion arises because the same degree can have different requirements (project vs. thesis), with no way to distinguish them other than the number of credits on the transcript. This does not serve the students well. She asks that Faculty Senate consider a resolution to distinguish M.S. degrees if they can have either a project or thesis.

--GAAC is generally in favor of a motion to distinguish master's of science with project vs. thesis where the potential for confusion exists; Donie will draft a motion and distribute to GAAC before the next meeting

--Donie will seek input from the Administrative Committee on this topic

--Larry recommends that we invite dean and faculty of unit for discussion at Faculty Senate meeting where this is discussed. He feels that, because this program is already approved, we should tread cautiously. It is best if program requirements are generated by the faculty, rather than by the Senate.

3.) After discussion, GAAC votes in favor of discontinuing Biology MAT.

4.) Falk Huettman's trial course: the description needs some work. There are no prerequisites, the course description is too long, the extent of overlap with current courses is not clear. How the course builds on previous courses is not clear. Shouldn't GIS be required as a prerequisite? The laboratory part of the course needs more description. The impacts for other departments and biology (both positive and negative) need to be specified, no library collections (Lara agrees to be the lead, Franz will also read)

Larry will turn over to John Eichelberger as graduate Dean at next meeting

--Larry cautions us to be aware of strong individuals imposing vision well on everyone; all faculty work best on the local level