

GAAC: Graduate Academic Advisory Committee of the UAF Faculty Senate

2011-11-22 Meeting Minutes

Voting Members: Orion Lawlor, Vincent Cee, Chung-Sang Ng, Sue Renes, Donie Bret-Harte, Elisabeth Nadin, Xiong Zhang

Ex officio: Timothy Bartholomaus, Anita Hughes, Karen Jensen, Larry Duffy

Guest: Lillian Misel

We worked our way through all the courses ready for approval on [our curriculum list](#).

Approved this meeting:

- 8-GNC: New GEOS 436/636 – Programming and Automation for Geoscientists, a 2 credit pass/fail course on using matlab and shell scripts for automated data analysis.
- 10-GCDR: Drop GEOS 434/634 – Remote sensing of Cryosphere, an elective that was rarely offered after the instructor left UAF.
- 11-GPch: Rename the Wildlife PhD as Wildlife Biology & Conservation, instead of being a concentration within Biological Sciences.
- 21-GNC: New GEOS 431/631 Foundations of Geophysics, a single-course replacement for 620 and 602 proposed by those courses' instructors.
- 23-GNC: New GEOG 6xx: Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Well-Being, a new elective on sustainability.

GAAC approved the mouldy course drops from ED, CEM, Biology, Chemistry, and Wildlife, all listed at the [bottom of the GAAC curriculum page](#).

President Gamble has asked the faculty senates to review the [UA Policy & Regulations](#) for readability, relevance, and consistency with the law and our [collective bargaining agreement](#). GAAC has been assigned [Chapter 09.05. Employment of Students](#), and (once the Provost's office has reviewed it) [Chapter 10.02. Academic Administrative Organization](#). Step one is to flag anything we think may need changing by mid January; by the middle of spring semester we should be finished with our review, at which point we'll trade sections with UAA's faculty senate.

CNSM Dean Layer would like to adjust the Annual Report of Advisory Committee requirements, to make them every year (not just the second year) and always include a plan (not just those within two years of the graduation limit). Many departments do file these every year already; probably a majority of students already do these. Some departments have vociferously opposed the more frequent reporting in the past. It might be difficult for a first-year PhD students to produce a plan; or for overworked advisors to produce more reports. Nonetheless, GAAC recommends accepting Dean Layer's plan.

Discuss policies for post-baccalaureate certificates: are these under the purview of the graduate school? There are currently only three such programs, in [Construction Management](#), [Statistics](#), and [Education](#). Discussion will continue online.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Dec 6 at 3pm.