

## GAAC: Graduate Academic Advisory Committee of the UAF Faculty Senate

2012-01-25 Meeting Minutes

Voting Members: Orion Lawlor, Elisabeth Nadin, Lara Horstmann, Vince Cee, Chung-Sang Ng  
Guest: Keith Whitaker, instructor in Civil & Environment Engineering

Graduate School still has an interim dean. Search committee will be formed by Provost.

GAAC discussed the proposed construction management courses in detail with guest Dr. Whitaker. There's an existing 15 credit BOR-approved [graduate certificate in construction management](#), currently fed by 3-credit courses. The idea is to add 1-credit courses, offered through CDE, with instructors affiliated with the Civil & Environment Engineering Department. Bob Perkins is trying to figure out a path where students can reuse the courses from their graduate certificate if they choose to go on to a full CE master's degree.

- 500 level courses are primarily used for continuing education requirement, mostly for retention of license instead of new skill development. 500 courses can't be applied to degrees, by BOR policy.
- Rationale for 1 credit courses: can specialize the instructor to the specific topic.
- Instructors are mostly Practicing Engineers, drawn from local experts. Some instructors are down in Anchorage or Juneau, brought here via video conferencing.
- Amount of writing depends on the course; typically a written final project plus an oral presentation. Usually written material is in report form, no citations, 5-7 pages.
- Center for Distance Education provides a convenient and accessible building downtown, and provides video conferencing.

We continue to work our way through our curriculum list. We approved:

- 1-GPCh, new Environmental Chemistry track on Contaminant Fate.
- 5-GPCh, new requirements for the Geophysics M.S., pending a double-checking that the new math requirements are appropriate for M.S. students not going on to the PhD. Tim will contact the Geophysics department.
- 6 and 7-GNC, the new courses GEOS 607 and 609.
- 17-GPCh, slight update to M.Ed. requirements.
- 24-GNC, new EDSE 678 course, pending a clarification of how the 315 point grading scale is derived (no point value is assigned for Course Requirement 2). Vince will contact the instructor.

Due date is March 1 for course and program changes to make it in the Fall 2012 catalog, so GAAC members should be diligent in keeping in contact with instructors and reviewing courses.

Policy & Regulation review is ongoing: we haven't identified any issues yet with our sections.

Next meeting: Friday, February 10, 9am.