

## Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2011

9:00-10:00 a.m.

408 Rasmuson Library (Kayak Room)

Voting members present: Ken Abramowicz (Chair), Donie Bret-Harte (phone), Lara Dehn, Orion Lawlor, Anupma Prakash (phone), Sue Renes, Jen Schmidt (phone).

Ex officio members present: Anita Hughes, Laura Bender, Larry Duffy, Karen Jensen.  
Guest: Jayne (notes)

### 1. Discussion/modification/approval of agenda

Agenda was approved. Laura Bender mentioned the topic discussed last time about academic dismissal from a graduate program, and it was agreed to include this topic at the next meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for March 28.

### 2. Discussion/approval of minutes from 2-21-2011 meeting

Minutes were approved without modifications.

### 3. Discussion item related to stacked courses (attached)

Ken mentioned the most recent changes to Rainer's document, which included taking out the content referring to workload credit and adding a statement (in caps) about the importance of stacked courses to master's programs.

Lara noted that it would only address new courses, not existing ones.

Anupma felt there's a problem with the stipulation that differences in level should be reflected by weekly assignments. A course might not have weekly assignments. Donie agreed, and there was consensus on that point. Homework may also not be given on a weekly basis. New language is needed for this point.

Lara suggested getting student input. Larry mentioned graduate student organizations could be invited for discussion or included in a poll. It was pointed out that no question for student evaluations exists on current SOI forms. Could one be added? Or use SurveyMonkey? Anupma noted that there is a wide variety of reasons for students taking stacked courses. Ken acknowledged that, noting that stacked courses are a fact of life here at UAF. It's a complex issue, particularly in light of the fact that new programs are not being encouraged right now and reallocation will be on the rise.

Everyone agreed that a senate discussion is needed. Open faculty forums could be held down the line.

### 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)

**Approved on the condition that** the reading assignments be written into the syllabus.

- 25-GNC\_ATM F678 - Mesoscale Dynamics (Xiong, Jen, Sue)

Numerous syllabus modifications are needed. Ken will contact course instructor to request needed changes. [Modifications were made after the meeting. **Approved by email.**]

- 38-GNC\_EE F646 Wireless Sensor Networks (Orion, Donie, Lara)

Revised syllabus was received by Orion, and looks good to both he and Lara. **Approved.**

- 39-GNC\_EE F668 Radar Systems (Orion, Donie, Lara)

The syllabus revisions were not made. As a result, the proposal was **not approved.**

- 40-GNC\_EE F675 Robot Modeling and Control (Orion, Donie, Lara)

**Approved on the condition that** the grading process be written into the syllabus. There was discussion about grading on a curve by the committee. Larry noted that the syllabus is very important and is used in a grade appeal.

- 27-GNP Master of Arts in Political Science and related courses [28-GNC, 29-GNC, 20-GNC] (Ken, Jen, Regine)

The committee consensus was that the program needs more work at the department.

**Not approved.** Concerns of the committee include:

- Difficulty of passing new programs at statewide at this time.
- Workforce development considerations.
- Almost all the required courses for the degree are stacked.
- Potential impact on NORS student numbers.
- Issue of necessary internal allocation of resources (NORS support is conditioned on keeping all existing TA positions, but new PS degree will require three new TA positions) [especially considering the fact that CLA is currently searching for a new Dean].
- Issues with using internship option in lieu of a thesis requirement.
- Discrepancies related to number of credits required (30-33 for Concentration in Environmental Politics and Policy, 33-36 for Concentration in Arctic Policy).

Larry suggested that Political Science might want to consider converting this new degree into a professional degree.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.

(Remainder of agenda items will be put on the agenda of the 3-28-11 GAAC meeting.)