

Minutes
Graduate Academic Advisory Committee
September 10, 2010
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Ken Abramowicz (Chair), Donie Bret-Harte, Lara Dehn, Regine Hock, Orion Lawlor, Sue Renes, Xiong Zhang (phone), Jen Schmidt.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Larry Duffy, Laura Bender, Anita Hughes, Karen Jensen.

Meeting started at 10:00.

1. The proposed meeting agenda was approved without any modification.
2. Ken Abramowicz was elected to serve as chair during the 2010-2011 academic year.
3. After reviewing and discussing the results of a Doodle poll, the committee agreed that committee meetings during the current semester will be held on Mondays from 9:30-10:30 am. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 27. Other meeting dates for this semester will be discussed and approved at the next meeting (Ken will submit a list of proposed dates).

4. Unfinished business:

- A. ME-F634 Format 2.
GAAC had concerns related to the initial proposal. Since the department did not respond to GAAC requests related to these concerns, this proposal was not approved.
- B. PhD in Clinical Community Psychology Program Change.
During the summer Orion received email votes from a majority of the committee. As a result of email vote during the summer, the proposed changes were accepted.
- C. CHEM F618 (new course proposal).
The proposal has been revised. Xiong Zhang will forward the revised proposal to Ken and it will be put on GAAC's website. The new revisions will be discussed at the next meeting.
- D. FISH F414/F614 (new course proposal).
Most committee members did not think there is sufficient time during Maymester for the students to learn the material contained in the course. As a result of email vote during the summer, the proposal was not approved. GAAC recommends that the department collect assessment data for FISH 314 during the current academic year, ask for a one-time (trial course) approval for FISH 614, collect assessment data for the trial FISH 614 course, and compare the results to provide evidence related to the equivalency of the student learning in these two courses.

E. Policy change related to tuition awards for RA/TAs.

Larry Duffy discussed potential changes in tuition awards for RA/TAs and the related consequences. He also suggested that Pat Pitney be invited to discuss this issue at either a later GAAC meeting or a Faculty Senate meeting. It was agreed that all GAAC members would discuss this item with their faculty/fiscal officer/dean with the purpose of identifying issues and concerns related to implementation of this new policy.

5. New proposed courses:

- A. MSL – Chemical Coastal Processes (trial course). After brief discussion, the new trial course was unanimously approved.
- B. MSL F694 – Scientific Writing Techniques (trial course). It was noted that similar courses are offered by other departments and a discussion related to the need for this course followed. After discussion, the new trial course was unanimously approved.

6. New discussion topics:

- A. Larry Duffy discussed the advisory role of GAAC on policy/administrative matters related to graduate studies at UAF. He discussed various topics that may arise during the coming year and welcomed input from GAAC.
- B. Laura Bender presented the possibility of including GAAC on the itinerary for the finalists in the search process for Dean of the Graduate School. The committee felt this would be a good idea.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.