

Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2016

Attending: John Yarie, Daryl Farmer, Don Hampton, Mitch Reed, Mike Daku, Laura Bender, Amanda Loibl, Jayne Harvie, Mike Castelline, Donie Bret-Harte

I. Minutes from our meeting of January 13, 2016 were passed.

II. Updates from the Graduate School. Mike Castellini indicated that representatives of the graduate school will address the full faculty senate regarding graduate student health insurance at the next meeting, February 8, 2016. He indicated that there is still uncertainty regarding interpretation of the IRS regulations, but that several other institutions (University of Kentucky, University of Alabama) have stopped providing health insurance for graduate students, and believe that they are compliant. At the present time, the Provost is not contemplating changes for next year, because the situation after the next US Presidential election may be quite different. Mitch asked whether there was a student option under healthcare.gov. Laura thought that there was not. No one knew whether Medicaid expansion has gone into effect in Alaska, yet, although the governor approved it.

Mike Castellini also commented that it is not clear yet what the UA President's memo on "strategic pathways" means for UAF. The Provost has received plans from all the schools for how to deal with the budget decrease that was forecast earlier. At this point, those may be minimum decreases, though much is still unknown. For the graduate school, the proposal is to decrease staffing by 1.5 FTE and implement a 25% reduction in thesis completion fellowships. Because student hires have not been subject to the hiring freeze, a student will help out for the time being. Over the longer term, the graduate school would hope to hire back 0.5 FTE. Other updates include that there is no system to automatically generate letters for graduate students who are not in good standing, as is done for undergraduates. Facing staff reductions, the graduate school would like to implement a system of automated letters for graduate students (this may result in less flexibility for graduate students). They haven't done this so far, because not all graduate courses count toward a program, so determinations are made by hand. In other news, the graduate school is getting ready for commencement already. All three commencements have been scheduled for the same day, and it is possible that UAF's commencement will be moved to Saturday so that President Johnson can attend. If that happens, there will be no commencement rehearsal.

III. GAAC passed the following course and program proposals and changes:

30-GNC: New Course: [DVM F711 - Foundations of Veterinary Medicine IV](#), pending some small corrections.

Several other proposals were discussed, and it was noted that revisions are needed. GAAC members will contact the proposers. New assignments were made.

IV. Our next meeting will be on February 17, 2016, at 1:15 pm