

Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2015

Attending: John Yarie, Jayne Harvie, Don Hampton, Daryl Farmer, Mitchell Reed, Mike Daku, Donie Bret-Harte (by phone), Anne Boudreau (by phone)

I. Minutes from our meeting of 9/23/15 were passed.

II. GAAC discussed updates from the graduate school provided by Mike Castellini (neither Mike nor Laura Bender could attend today). The topic of digital vs. physical signature pages was discussed further. Jayne and Donie clarified that GAAC approval is not required, though the Graduate School wants our opinions. Anne Boudreau polled her faculty, and they approved of secure digital signatures (not unsecure ones). This was the consensus in GAAC last time we discussed the issue, but is not reflected in Mike's email. John Yarie asked whether the library keeps printed copies of theses. Individual departments keep printed copies, but at present the library is retaining only digital copies (pdfs). How secure this will be for the future as technology changes is an important issue, but is separate from the signature issue.

The issue of health insurance for graduate students was also discussed further. Several people expressed that relying on the individual market set up under the Affordable Care Act would likely pose a problem for many graduate students. Anne asked whether faculty could contact the graduate school directly if they have concerns about this issue. We believe that the answer is yes. We encourage GAAC members to contact their colleagues to make them aware of the changing situation; their colleagues can contact GAAC or contact the Graduate School (Mike Castellini) directly. Don asked whether UAF would become less competitive in attracting graduate students, which seems like a distinct possibility. Anne noted that some students in Juneau purchase their own insurance anyway, because as they are not located in Fairbanks, they can't use the on-campus facilities, as required by the current graduate student health insurance. It was suggested that we ask for some more information from Mike Castellini, including estimates of the costs under the different options that are being considered. As Mike Castellini will address the Faculty Senate in December, it would be nice to see these numbers prior to the Senate Meeting.

III. Updates on current assignments. GAAC passed the following revised course proposal:

3-GNC: New Course: [DVM F722 - Veterinary Pharmacology](#)

No other revisions have been received for pending items.

IV. New review assignments were made. Jayne gave us a heads-up that she has just received three items from the School of Education, which are not yet posted.

V. The next meeting of GAAC will be October 28, 2015 at 3 pm (subsequently modified to 2 pm).