

## **Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee Minutes for November 11, 2015**

Attending: Anne Beaudreau, Mike Castellini, Mitch Reed, Katrin Iken (guest), Mike Daku, Karen Jensen (by phone), Don Hampton, Jayne Harvie, John Yarie, Donie Bret-Harte, Amanda Loibl

**I. Minutes** of our meeting of 10/28/15 were passed

**II. GAAC members spoke with guest Katrin Iken about the proposal for an MA in Marine Sciences.** Katrin stated that the interest in this program came from two sides, requests from students and a perception that it might benefit the overall marine program in SFOS. Some students have requested a course-based master's that can be completed in only two years, that would cover scientific literature in more depth and give them a better understanding of data analyses, but they are not interested in their own research proposal with lengthy data collection of their own. At present, SFOS can't accommodate these students except through Interdisciplinary Studies. Many of these students are coming from agencies or military, so they are different from students undergoing the usual undergraduate to graduate transition. SFOS does not have an undergraduate program, so they tend to have fairly low numbers of graduate students. The marine program interest lies in accommodating students in a better way and increasing student numbers. Further, there is limited support (TAships) for students, so it would be beneficial to have more self-supporting students. Most students coming from agencies would have their own support from their jobs. Katrin expects no additional costs for program, because the faculty are already there, available to mentor, and these students would simply provide higher enrollment in classes that are already being taught. The program would not require any additional funds, and would make the most of classes already being offered.

Mike Daku asked whether SFOS can increase enrollment by targeted recruitment. Katrin responded that they are working to increase recruitment for whole school, not just particular programs. They have done some background work on names for program, how best to attract students, and they believe that a MA in Marine Science would be a good selling point.

Mitch Reed asked for an explanation of the different requirements for project vs. thesis, and how much depth would be required in a project. Katrin gave several examples of possible projects using existing data sets (e.g. mooring data, or monitoring data not associated with a hypothesis-driven project, but still useful) that could be analyzed and published. The project would not require that the students undertake field work, or developing the ideas for the project completely on their own. Anne Beaudreau commented that this sounds very similar to a European master's degree (often 1 year, abstracts pitched to students to help them get started quickly, focused in scope, not as in-depth as a UAF M.S. degree). In contrast, students accepted into M.S. program come without a fully formed idea, spend a year taking classes and developing ideas. In M.A. program, idea will be presented to them, so that they don't have to develop ideas on their own and can hit the ground running. Anne asked about how advising these students will affect faculty workload. This has been discussed, but not finalized. However, each student will have an assigned advisor, but likely there will be less credit per student than for M.S. students. whether a faculty member takes on a MA student will depend on

interests of faculty as well as students, and SFOS expects a good match. The program will not accept students without matching them up with advisors ahead of time. John Yarie asked whether the program would accept students with any undergraduate degree. Katrin said that she would expect students to mostly have backgrounds in natural sciences background, but the decision will be up to the advisor. Katrin will clarify the number of credits required in the document.

**III. Updates from the Graduate School.** 1) Mike Castellini is preparing for the presentation on changes to graduate student health insurance at the December Senate Meeting. Dr. BJ Aldrich, MD, who oversees the UAF Health Center will attend to speak at Senate meeting; she deals with insurance companies. 2) The Graduate School has been dealing with Title IX issues; doing some interviews with EEOO on two past cases reported to the grad school (members of whom are mandatory reporters); one is deep in HR. He commented that it is difficult because no information comes back to the Graduate School once a case goes to the investigators, yet the students want feedback on the in. Title IX training and bystander (green dot) training will be implemented for graduate students; it would be nice to also get some training on how to speak with the students when no resolution is forthcoming. 3) The Graduate School expects further reductions in staff and services probably equivalent to 1 FTE, but there are no FTEs to give up, so this will likely impact scholarships and other services. 4) Mike has been actively engaged in outreach and training on behalf of the Graduate School, through Joy Morrison's faculty development program and visits to individual departments.

**IV. Updates on current assignments.** GAAC passed the following course and program proposals and changes:

**9-GCCh.:** Course Change: [WLF / FISH F625 - Population Dynamics of Vertebrates](#), pending removal of population projections from the catalog description, as that no longer applies.

**13-GPCh:** Program Change: [MS - Electrical Engineering](#)

**14-GCCh.:** Course Change: [CE F406 - Traffic Engineering](#)

**19-GPCh.:** Program Change: [Graduate Licensure and MEd in Special Education](#)

**26-GCCh.:** Course Change: [BIOL F460 - Principles of Virology](#), passed pending small corrections to format 1 form

**V. Our next meeting** will be held November 25 at 3 pm.