

Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2016

Attending: Don Hampton, Anne Beaudreau (by zoom), Sean McGee (by zoom), Mitch Reed, Daryl Hampton, Donie Bret-Harte, Mike Daku, Amanda Loibl, Jayne Harvie

- I. Minutes from our meeting of 2/24/16 were passed.
- II. GAAC discussed the draft modification of the academic appeals policy and grade appeals policy forwarded to us by Sandra Wildfeuer of SADA. It is likely that the academic appeals policy will mostly apply to graduate students. Amanda and Holly will find out how many graduate students are affected by grade appeals in courses. GAAC had the following comments on the two motions: 1) After comparing with the BOR and UA Regulation documents, the main issue that we see is that there is no provision for the presence of an advocate for the student in either draft motion (grade appeals or academic appeals). This might put these draft motions (and our existing appeals policies) out of compliance with BOR policy, which states that "A party may choose an advisor to be present at all times during the proceedings." However, both draft motions state that "The meeting will be closed to outside participation, and neither the student nor the instructor or [[d]]Department chair may be accompanied by an advocate or representative. Other matters of format will be announced in advance." This was mentioned this as one of the primary drivers for updating the appeals policy, but it doesn't seem to have made it into the draft motions yet. One GAAC member who had experience with an issue involving general counsel commented that it is really important that policies be followed as they are laid out; where the university can get into trouble with the law is when there is a policy specified, but it is not followed. 2) Many appeals regarding graduate students are brought through the graduate school. GAAC requests that a representative of the graduate school be a non-voting member on any appeals involving graduate students (either grade appeals or non-grade academic decision appeals), so that the graduate school is aware of what is going on. We believe that most appeals involving graduate students are not grade appeals, but there is always the possibility that there could be a grade appeal, so we'd like that language in both policies. GAAC believes that this is not precluded by BOR or UA regulation. 3) We are in support of broadening faculty membership on appeals committees to include non-tenure track faculty. However, we feel that adjunct faculty should be compensated for their time if they agree to serve on appeals committees, because they are paid a flat fee per course taught, and do not receive salary. It seems unfair to ask them to serve as unpaid volunteers. 4) At present, no policy restricting eligibility requirements for department chairs has passed the senate, and in some departments, faculty have elected chairs that have partial administrative appointments. This has been a topic of active discussion in the Administrative Committee for the Senate. It seems like it would be better to define the department chair as it was in the original document, in order to be consistent with current practice and not create problems for these departments. 5) Our catalog representative, Amanda Loibl, commented that the marketing department requires that "department chair" be lower case, not upper case, in all documents. Capitalizing it throughout the document seems unnecessary, and could create a conflict with marketing. 6) We understand from Jayne Harvie that these documents are still being worked on. GAAC would like to see them again, after the subcommittee is happy with them, before they go to the Administrative Committee and the full Senate. GAAC's recommendations were sent to Sandra Wildfeuer and Joan Hornig (chair of the subcommittee) after the meeting.
- I. The following course and program changes were passed by GAAC:
4-GNC: New Course: [DVM F724 - Veterinary Bioanalytical Pathology](#)
5-GNC: New Course: [DVM F741 - Biology of Disease II - Pathology of Organ Systems I](#)
35-GCCh.: Course Change: [DVM F603 - Veterinary Science Research and Methods](#)
- II. New assignments were made
- III. GAAC will meet again on March 23 at 1:15 pm.