

Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes for Sept. 23, 2015

Attending: John Yarie, Mitch Reed, Laura Bender, Jayne Harvie, Daryl Farmer, Mary van Mulken (guest), Larry Duffy (guest), Sean McGee (phone), Anne Beaudreau (phone), Holly Sherouse (phone), Mike Daku, Donie Bret-Harte

**I. Minutes** from our meeting of 9/09/15 were approved.

**II. Certificate Program in Resilience and Sustainability.** GAAC discussed the proposal for a certificate program in Resilience and Sustainability with guests Larry Duffy and Mary van Mulkin. Larry indicated that the proposal's intention is to provide students with a documentation of their efforts in area of sustainability. There is already an on-going interdisciplinary program in sustainability, but students are admitted to individual departments, so this certificate will demonstrate that they have taken courses in interdisciplinary research. In response to a first round of comments, the proposal has been changed to provide a menu of courses that cross disciplinary boundaries and are already offered, and to steer away from relying on special topics courses. Larry clarified that students can still get the certificate even if they do not complete the program in resilience and sustainability. GAAC would like clarification on the impacts (which Larry expects to be small), and the admissions policy (most will enroll in fall, but they can enroll in spring, also). GAAC suggested that the proposal needs to be revised to clearly articulate the objectives and who can enroll, and add information on expected enrollments and finances for the Board of Regents. Sean McGee will write up a list of smaller changes desired and send them to Larry and Mary. Holly requested that the possible elective courses be listed in the catalog description for the program, as that will reduce paperwork (otherwise, a separate memo detailing the approved electives is required for each student).

**III. Electronic signatures on graduate theses.** Laura Bender of the graduate school requested that GAAC members solicit feedback from their individual departments on whether electronic signatures for graduate theses would be acceptable. This was discussed with the Deans, and their opinions were split. Some liked having signatures attached, and felt that real signatures meant something. Others felt that electronic signatures would be fine. Some departments at other universities have a separate approval page, while UAA requires no signatures. GAAC members have already indicated that electronic signatures that are secure would be much better than no signatures. GAAC members agreed to poll their colleagues.

**IV. Update on current assignments.** GAAC passed the following course proposals, for which acceptable revisions were received:

**1-GNC:** New Course: **DVM F710 - Foundations of Veterinary Medicine III**

**2-GNC:** New Course: [DVM F714 - Preventative Veterinary Medicine](#)

**6-GNC:** New Course: **DVM F751 - Clinical Toxicology** (pending correction of the title and prerequisites to agree between format 1 form and catalog description)

At the request of the proposer, Carryforward: **34-GNP: Graduate Certificate in Sustainability of Marine Ecosystems** will be held for the spring semester, when a new Dean will be on board.

**V. No new assignments were made,** because no additional proposals were submitted as of this meeting.

**VI. GAAC's next meeting will be held October 14, 2015 at 3 pm.**