

## Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee 2016-2017 End-of-Year report

Co-Chairs: Donie Bret-Harte and Sean Topkok

Members: Anne Beaudreau, Michael Daku, Daryl Farmer, Don Hampton, Roman Makarevich, Sean McGee, Robin Shoaps, Mitchell Reed (graduate student), Mike Castellini (ex-officio), Laura Bender (ex-officio), Holly McDonald (ex-officio), Karen Jensen (ex-officio)

In 2016-2017, the Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee considered 4 course proposals carried over from the previous year, 3 trial courses, and 49 new program and course proposals and course changes submitted in 2016-2017. Most of these were submissions were approved, usually after revisions to bring them into alignment with UAF faculty senate requirements for course syllabi. One carried-over course proposal and four submissions from 2016-2017 were carried over to 2017-2018, because the instructors were not available for revisions, or because the proposals were submitted too late for consideration in this year. All of the program changes approved by GAAC were also approved by the Faculty Senate.

GAAC proposed one motion, to allow deferred project (698) credits to be changed automatically to a passing grade by the Registrar once a student satisfactorily completes the project, as was already the case for thesis (699) credits. This motion was approved by the Faculty Senate. In addition, GAAC discussed continued options for graduate student health insurance with staff of the Graduate School, who also made a presentation to the Faculty Senate. In the end, no significant changes to graduate student health insurance were necessary for next year. GAAC also recommended to the Graduate School that language currently in graduate student contract letters that states that repayment of RA or TA support if contract conditions are not met should be dropped, though the ability to terminate RAs or TAs for non-performance should remain. This change does not require Faculty Senate approval.

A subset of GAAC met with a subset of CAC members to discuss advice on student learning outcomes in syllabi to proposers of new courses, to ensure that we are all on the same page. The joint group recommended the following: 1) Add to the course goals vs. objectives guide that Rainer Newberry had begun in order to provide a guide to faculty. Add bad to good examples from several disciplines, where possible. 2) Create a document with information on various types of grading systems and rubrics, again, for guidance to faculty. Provide broad examples so that faculty across disciplines would see the breadth possible. 3) Create a grad/undergrad stacked course guide. Provide examples of how such courses should/could be stacked. The joint group did not meet again, so the process was not completed by the end of the year.

GAAC discussed the implications of requiring registration for one credit rather than three credits during the semester of graduation. This was a motion passed several years ago to provide relief for students who defend their thesis in one semester, but finish revisions in the next semester. However, it has had an unintended consequence of requiring students in course-based master's programs who take an incomplete in coursework to have to

register for an additional credit in the next year, rather than simply completing their coursework. Because this discussion happened in May, a motion to address it will need to be considered next fall.

GAAC would like to thank Jayne Harvie for her help in making our meetings accessible to those members who couldn't be there in person, and her generous assistance with all aspects of Faculty Senate procedures and actions. Her institutional knowledge of the Senate was very valuable, and we appreciate her assistance.