

## **Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for 02/20/2017**

Attending: Jayne Harvie, Sean Topkok, Mitch Reed, Roman Makarevich, Karen Jensen (zoom), Anne Beaudreau (zoom), Mike Daku, Robin Shoaps, Daryl Farmer, Don Hampton, Holly Sherouse (zoom)

**I. Minutes** from our meeting of 1/30/17 were tabled until received from Donie.

### **II. Update from Graduate School: Email from Mike C.:**

I have outlined a few items below and attached a document for the agenda item "Report from the Graduate School"

1. Health Insurance.

As you recall, last year at this time we presented to the Faculty Senate about graduate student insurance. At the meeting, the Provost stated that she would make sure we had them covered for the academic year that we are just completing.

This year, the various Schools were not sure what to put in their offer letters to potential TAs and RAs starting in Fall 2017, as we do not yet have an insurance contract. We worked last week with UAF procurement, obtained the latest costs estimates from the insurance programs and provided a rough estimate of costs to the Provost. It appears as if the costs will increase about 7% and the Provost has notified all the Schools that we will again provide health insurance to the graduate students on RAs and TAs. We will be meeting with the insurance carrier teams in March to finalize the policies.

2. We are expecting at least 28 PhD graduates this semester and, perhaps for the first time, we may have at least one from each UAF School and College.

3. Attached is a document on an issue we brought up late in the fall semester about the number of credits required in the semester of defense (3), vs the number of credits required post defense for committee work, editing, etc (1). The issue is not so much with theses and projects, but rather with programs that have non-thesis degrees (MBA certificates, etc). In 2013, the request was made to the Senate to clarify the language, but the new language was still not clear for the non-thesis students. The primary question is:

**Do non-thesis/non-project students need to take any credits the semester they graduate? If yes, how many and at what level (400-/600-level)?**

The details and issues on this question are contained in the document.

I ask that you please assign this document either to a team to review (as you do for new classes, programs, etc), or perhaps to the entire committee to read. We can then discuss at a future GAAC meeting.

The document will be sent to the whole committee to review and provide feedback a week before the March 6 deadline for catalog inclusion.

**III. Updates on current courses:** GAAC reviewed all the current assignments and passed the following course and program changes, either during the meeting or by email:

**3-Trial:** Trial Course: [FISH F694 - The Alaska Board of Fisheries: A Case Study](#)

**32-GNC:** New Course, Stacked: [RD F667 - Beyond Violence: Alaska Native Healing and Justice](#)

**42-GPCh.:** Program Change: [PhD - Fisheries](#)

**IV. New assignments** were made.

**V. Our next meeting** will be determined by Doodle Poll.