

GAAC 9/19/16

Attending: Donie Bret-Harte, Sean Topkok, Roman Makarevich, Mike Castellini, Mitch Reed, Sean McGee, Robin Shoaps, Anne Beaudreau (by phone), Holly Sherouse, Shelly Baumann, Mike Daku (by phone)

I. Minutes from our meeting of 9/09/16 were approved.

II. Updates from the graduate school. Graduate Dean Mike Castellini let us know that there will be both large and small issues for GAAC from the graduate school (Shelly Baumann will shortly brief us on some operational issues from the graduate school). With respect to large issues, he drew our attention to the announcements from President Johnson last week on the first phase of strategic pathways, but Mike hasn't heard yet how the Board of Regents responded to President Johnson's thoughts. However, if the proposed merger of the various Schools of Education goes through, it will undoubtedly affect the graduate school, and result in work for GAAC.

III. Shelly Baumann asked GAAC about clarification of the 3 credit/1 credit requirement for finishing students. Donie provided background that GAAC initiated (and the Senate passed) a motion allowing graduate students who have defended their thesis to register for only 1 credit in the semester following that one, with the rationale that by that point, most of the work is done, because students are just completing their revisions. Shelly's first question is what about MBA students that are only taking coursework? The motion was not intended to address this situation. Second, what if students don't recognize this provision or apply for graduation in the semester in which they actually graduate? Mike Castellini suggested that Shelly should write up a small paper on these issues, and we will discuss them further.

Another issue that Shelly raised concerns thesis vs. project credits. At present, thesis credits (699) are cleared and changed from "deferred" to "pass" automatically and all at once when a student graduates. But for master's students who do projects, the deferred project credits (698) have to be changed individually by the faculty member. It is hard to get faculty to do this, and students are often frustrated. Why not change all 698 credits automatically, like the 699 credits? GAAC members did not see any reason why this couldn't be done. However, it isn't clear that this is actually a matter for the Senate. We will ask Jayne to check into whether the Senate has ever provided any instructions on this issue (or weighed in on thesis credits).

IV. Donie reviewed proposed changes to the program deletion process. The current format 4 form for program deletion includes signatures for the Department Chair and Chair of the Curriculum council, and was really designed for voluntary program deletions. Provost Henrichs sees the possibility of administratively initiated program deletions resulting from the special academic review process, which may not be voluntary. Should the Department Chair have to sign off on those? Provost Henrichs sees that the responsibility for program deletion ultimately rests with the Chancellor and Board of Regents, not with the Senate, because of the financial consequences. However, she agreed that input from the Senate could still be beneficial. A memo outlining the

procedure for program deletion was forwarded to GAAC members. It is still under development, and will be discussed further.

V. GAAC reviewed updates on all the course proposals that are currently under consideration. Most need some revisions. GAAC passed **2-GCCh.: Course Change / Stacking: [FISH F612 - Fish Conservation Biology](#)**.

VI. New assignments were made.

VII. GAAC will meet again in the week of October 17. A Doodle poll will be sent around to try again to identify a time that works for everyone. Any course proposals that are revised satisfactorily can be passed by email in the meantime (readers please send the revised paperwork to Donie and Jayne, and an email vote will be conducted).