

GAAC 10/21/13

Attending: Donie Bret-Harte, Mike Daku, Christina Chu, Jayne Harvie, Wayne Marr, Cheng-fu Chen, Amy Lovecraft, Mike Earnest, Franz Mueter

I. The minutes from our last meeting on 10/14/13 passed with one correction.

II. GAAC had a discussion with Carol Holz of the Office of International Programs (OIP) regarding the current policy for completion of graduate programs by international students. After the faculty senate passed its resolution in 2011, OIP consulted with an immigration attorney, who said that the existing policy at that time was reasonable (completion date 2 weeks after thesis defense), but that setting the completion date for 60 days after the thesis defense also complied with the law. OIP changed the university policy to allow the completion date to occur 60 days following the thesis defense in order to allow time for revisions to the thesis. Carol felt that there was some confusion regarding what happens after a student reaches the program completion date. Students do not have to leave the country after their completion date if they 1) apply to a new academic program or 2) apply for OPT status (the application need not be approved, it just must be turned in). OPT status requires a letter from the chair of the graduate committee. The policy also allows for exceptions (for instance, for students who must defend early because of travel commitments by members of their graduate committee), if these are cleared with International Programs. Carol answered various questions posed by GAAC members. GAAC appreciates the information.

III. GAAC passed the following program changes and course proposals:

**5-GPCh.:** Program Change: [MA - Northern Studies](#)

**6-GPCh.:** Program Change: [MA and MS - Chemistry](#)

**8-GPCh.:** Program Change: [MS and PhD - Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#)

**9-GPCh.:** Program Change: Secondary licensure

**14-GNC:** New Course: [COUN F667 - Ethnicity and Family Studies](#)

**16-GNC:** New Course: [FISH F676 - Aquatic Food Web Ecology](#)

IV. As Donie will be out of town for both the Administrative Committee on Friday, October 25 and the full Senate meeting on November 4, Franz Mueter volunteered to present our previously passed motions to the Administrative Committee. Amy Lovecraft volunteered to present the motions to establish a Master's of Music in performance program and delete the existing Master's of Arts in music program to the full Senate. Vince Cee volunteered to present the motion to amend GAAC's by-laws to allow graduate students to vote to the full Senate, assuming that it passes the Administrative Committee.

V. The next meeting of GAAC will occur on November 11, 2013.