

GAAC minutes 11/11/13

Attending: Donie Bret-Harte (by phone), Amy Lovecraft, John Yarie, Christina Chu, Karen Jensen, Laura Bender, Sophie Gilbert, Wayne Marr, Franz Mueter, Elisabeth Nadin, Mike Ernest, Lara Horstmann

I. Minutes from our meeting of 10/23/13 were passed.

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

4-GPCh: Program change: [PhD - Natural Resources and Sustainability](#)

10-GCCh.: Course Change: [BIOL F615 - Systematic and Comparative Biology](#),

pending correction of disabilities services number

11-GCCh.: Course Change: [FISH F411 - Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems](#)

15-GNC: New Course: [FISH F681 - The North Pacific Fishery Management Council: A Case Study](#)

17-GNC: New Course: [EE F648 - VLSI Design](#)

18-GNC: New Course: [CE F660A - Project Management Boot Camp](#)

Four new course proposals and program changes were assigned for review

III. GAAC discussed the reactions of the faculty senate and the administrative committee to our motion to change GAAC's by-laws to make graduate student representatives voting members. The motion was referred back to committee, with a request for greater specificity in how graduate student representatives would be selected, and how conflicts of interest would be handled. In addition, some members of the faculty senate felt that it was inappropriate to have graduate student representatives on a faculty committee at all; it is unlikely the motion could be modified sufficiently to attract the support of these senate members. Laura Bender pointed out that the student regent is a voting member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents.

GAAC members felt that graduate students are valuable members of our committee, and provide important input on policies and procedures, as well as course and program proposals. In terms of selection of representatives, it was pointed out that departments across the university differ in how formally their graduate students are organized, so we can't necessarily count on having graduate student organizations find representatives to GAAC. Laura Bender noted that normally it is difficult to find graduate students who are willing to serve. She suggested that the graduate school publish an annual announcement of vacancy to which graduate students could apply, then the Graduate Dean appoint up to two graduate student representatives. This proposal was supported by several members of the committee. Amy Lovecraft felt that it is important to assess how the faculty that she represents would feel about having graduate students be voting members. GAAC will continue the discussion of this issue, and how to handle conflicts of interest, at our next meeting.