

Graduate Council Minutes

Approved

March 11, 2009

Present: Beyler, Bodegom, Faaleava, Fletcher, Gould, Howard, Jivanjee, LaVallee, Maier, Robillard, Harmon, Ostlund, Hanson, Popp

Absent: Elzanowski, Everett, Feyerherm, Marshall, Mildner

AGENDA

Minutes from February 25 meeting

Old Business

New Business

- Discussion on FL MA requirement
- Discuss request to delay graduation
- Discuss pending proposal of Senate Steering Committee continuing to meet during the summer

Minutes from February 25 meeting

It was moved (Maier) and seconded (Gould) to approve the revised minutes as submitted. Six in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Discussion of Spring 2009 Graduate Council meeting schedule. Council will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 12:15pm – 1:45pm. Karen will send updated schedule out to all GC council members.

Maier brought up the entry in the 2008-09 Bulletin of the 30 minutes time limit on the final defense for oral doctoral presentations. Concern raised that student may think they have to finish oral presentation within the 30 minutes. Most members agreed that presentations last approximately 60 minutes. Question if the statement should be eliminated, or revised to state, “oral presentations should not exceed 60 minutes”. Agreed upon for the protection of the students that, “oral presentations should not exceed 60 minutes” for both master’s and doctoral entries in the 2009-10 Bulletin.

New Business

Discussion on second language requirement for MA/MAT. The second language requirement for MA/MAT degrees is designed to enable students to conduct research in a second language. Ostlund summarized the current methods for satisfying the second language requirement; one such option is to have successfully passed a college-level second-year language course up to four years prior to graduate admission at PSU. Ostlund stated that the requirement for a student to have passed a second language course up to four years prior to the admission would not necessarily ensure the student would know the language well enough for research purposes. Therefore, FLL submitted to the Graduate Council the proposal that successful completion of any college-level, second-year language course will satisfy the second language requirement for an MA/MAT degrees, regardless of when it was completed. *It was moved (Bodegom) and seconded (Gould) that the four-year time limit on second languages classes to satisfy the MA/MAT second language requirement be deleted. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Discussion on requests to delay graduation. Hanson provided an overview of the issue regarding students requesting to delay graduation for the sole purpose of maintain international student (visa) status or financial aid eligibility. OGS has no mechanism to monitor when a student is ready to graduate other than self reporting, i.e. when students apply to graduate. Therefore, Hanson stated it would not be

appropriate to create a policy that students must graduate once all degree requirements have been completed as there would be no way to monitor this. However, allowing students to maintain visa status or financial aid eligibility when they have clearly completed all degree requirements is clearly problematic; ethical issues, as well as ramifications for PSU and its interaction with federal agencies, were discussed. After discussion, it was decided that OGS will ask students to provide a rationale for a request to delay graduation, and that the reason must be acceptable to OGS. Hanson will also draft a statement for the GC Annual Report to the Faculty Senate on this issue.

Discuss pending proposal of Senate Steering Committee continuing to meet during the summer.

Beyler provided the following “draft” of a resolution that will be brought by the Steering Committee to the Faculty Senate for consideration at the Senate meeting April 4:

Whereas, PSU faculty recognize the need for the University to respond in a timely manner to state budget reductions, and Whereas, a spirit of shared governance requires that PSU faculty have a significant voice in decisions affecting the University and its mission, Resolved, That essential PSU Faculty Senate sub-committees and the PSU Faculty Senate Steering Committee will continue to meet over the summer, and may call one of more summer meetings of the Faculty Senate, comprising incoming and continuing senators.

Graduate Council discussed the term of service for GC members being June to June; therefore, this year’s council members could be called to meet in the summer if they would agree to these meetings. Graduate Council members raised the question if this body would meet as consultants or for decision-making events. If formal actions within the university were being acted on Graduate Council would want to be included in these proceedings. The possibility of meetings being held electronically was discussed. Harmon stated that UCC has already voted to agree to meet if necessary in the summer. *Robillard made the motion that members of the Graduate Council would be available to meet if necessary in the summer; Bodegom seconded it, passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.