Graduate Council Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2014  
Commons Panorama Room  
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

X  Jie Chen        -  Grace Goc Karp       X  Gordon Murdoch
X  Jerry McMurtry  X  Tao Xing           X  Jon Van Gerpen
X  Greg Turner-Rahman  -  Tim Link     -  Diane Prorak
X  Scott Minnich    X  Sandra Reineke    X  Susan Irizarry
X  Jane Weiss       X  Jill Johnson      X  Thomas Morrow
X  SeAnne Safaii (for Gardiner)  X  Luigi Boschetti (for Conway)

I. Approval of the minutes from February 26, 2014  
   - Irizarry moved to approve. Seconded by Turner-Rahman. Approved unanimously.

II. Announcements and reports  
   A. The Law School requests  
      - Chen reported that he met with Dean Satz and requested that this discussion be postponed. Satz appreciated the thoughtful, useful report and will discuss it within the College of Law.
      - Chen thanked the task force for their good work.
      - This issue is postponed until further notice.
   B. COGS Exit Survey  
      - McMurtry reported to the Council that COGS is working on an exit survey for graduate students. They took questions from other universities’ exit surveys.
      - They are trying to tie it in with the application for degree so that all students would be required to complete it. He is also working with the Associate Deans Group on college-specific surveys to be linked to this survey in the future.
      - Questions asked:
         - Is there a survey for students who do not complete their degrees? No.
         - What kind of rating system will be used? 5-point scale.

III. Discussion  
   A. Approve study plan for David Jackson’s 2nd Ph.D.  
      - Jay O’Laughlin was present to talk about David Jackson’s situation. Graduate Council discussed it and asked O’Laughlin several questions.
      - Johnson moved to approve that David Jackson to be allowed to earn a 2nd Ph.D. Motion seconded by Boschetti.
      - Approved. Ten voted in favor. Two abstentions.
   B. Non-thesis Master’s programs  
      - Chen told Graduate Council that FFF discussions included the idea of increasing non-thesis Master’s programs and asked members what they think about non-thesis programs.
      - Weiss suggested it is up to the colleges whether they have thesis programs or not.
      - Reineke said a non-thesis option can be a useful recruitment tool. Less faculty resources are required for non-thesis programs vs. thesis programs. This opinion was echoed by Safaii.
      - Irizarry mentioned that her program has both options. Non-thesis fits well with MOSS and noted that thesis students have different career motives than non-thesis.
Murdoch asked if they are suggesting all programs create a non-thesis option. Chen said not at this time.

Van Gerpen noted that non-thesis programs are a very good pathway for off-campus students who are often professionals who do not have time to do a thesis option. He also noted that the research aspect of the UI’s mission is not enhanced by non-thesis. On-campus research is important, and he would not favor more non-thesis students on campus. He suggested this should be a college-driven policy.

Consensus amongst the group was that this kind of decision should be college-based.

Chen asked Council to talk to their colleagues about this issue.

C. Catalog/FSH items
   1. Criteria for Graduate Certificates
      - McMurtry reported that he is working with the Registrar’s Office to create a graduate certificate application process.
      - Council members had a lengthy discussion about the wording of the language of this new policy and the implications.
      - McMurtry said this issue is also being discussed in the Associate Deans Group and will be brought back to Graduate Council for further discussion and vote at the next meeting.

   2. Doctoral degree listing
      - DAT needs to be added to the Faculty-Staff Handbook section 4130.
      - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Johnson seconded.
      - Approved unanimously.

Future Meetings:
April 30
All meetings are at 3:30pm Pacific in the Commons Panorama Room.