

**Agenda for the Meeting of the Graduate Council  
November 11, 2015  
Commons Crest Room  
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

X	Jerry McMurtry	-	Ben Hunter	X	Alistair Smith
X	Julie Amador – phone	-	Jill Johnson	X	Greg Turner-Rahman
-	Alex Corredor	X	Scott Minnich	X	Tao Xing
-	Ankan Guria	X	Gordon Murdoch	X	Elowyn Yager - phone
-	Laura Holyoke	X	Sandra Reineke		

- I. Approval of the minutes from October 21, 2015
  - Minnich moved to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Turner-Rahman.
  - Approved with one abstention (Smith).
  
- II. Announcements and reports
  - A. Mentoring Program
    - McMurtry talked about the mentoring program. There will be discipline based mentors as well as international/region based mentors.
    - Murdoch asked if this is an effort to increase retention.
      - McMurtry said it is to increase retention and to shorten the time to completion.
  - B. TA/RA Salary Discussions at Faculty Senate
    - McMurtry told Council about the talk he gave at Faculty Senate and showed them the data from OK State report compared to UI.
    - Minnich said more overhead used to go back to departments. When that was the case, there were more funds for graduate assistants. That is no longer the case.
  
- III. Old Business
  - A. Language for Thesis/Dissertation Defenses – Feedback from Departments
    - McMurtry shared the thesis/dissertation defense language with the Council.
    - Xing asked if this language includes non-thesis.
      - McMurtry: No.
    - Friendly amendment suggested to remove language concerning punishment if final document is not submitted within six months after the defense.
    - Smith moved to approve with friendly amendment. Seconded by Minnich.
    - Unanimous approval with friendly amendment.
  - B. Changes to Major Professor/Committee Language in Catalog
    - Language was written to require, in the case of co-major professors, one person be noted as “primary” major professor to receive all correspondence, study plan approval, etc. This is necessary to allow for more direct communication on committees with co-major professors.
    - Minnich moved to approve. Seconded by Smith. Unanimous approval.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Curricular Items

1. CNR – Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences Graduate Certificate
  - Undergrad and graduate certificates are identical in the catalog.
  - This is to remove many undergrad courses and add graduate courses to comply with new certificate requirements. It will be possible to complete this certificate entirely online.
  - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Reineke. Approved with one abstention (Smith).
2. CLASS – MPA change
  - Brian Ellison attended the meeting to speak about the online MPA program addition. He explained the program and expressed a need for it in the state. It is unique because it focuses on rural/small local governments. He hopes to get local governments in Idaho to help fund these programs. There is a possibility that it would expand to Montana, Wyoming, and other rural areas.
  - Cohort model – 25 students per cohort. He would run no more than 2 cohorts at a time.
  - Ellison reported that BSU focuses on State and Federal governments, but they refuse to work with rural governments.
  - Murdoch asked which other degrees qualify people for open positions in the MPA program here. Ellison: civil engineers, English, anyone.
  - Students must have a position in government to get into this program. There are no assistantships or internships with this cohort program.
  - Reineke moved to approve. Seconded by Xing. Approved unanimously.

##### B. Discussion Items

1. Conditional Admission
  - Admissions catalog language changes were shared with Council. One change made was to change from “Academic units” to “Academic departments” in the language. Councilmembers suggested that a sentence be added to define “academic unit” and put the word “unit” back into the language and take “department” back out of the language.
  - Murdoch moved to approve with the change noted above. Seconded by Smith. Approved unanimously.

Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Future Meetings:

Spring Meetings TBD

All meetings will be on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. (Pacific).