

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2016
Commons Crest Room
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Nancy Sprague for Ben Hunter	X	Alistair Smith
X	Julie Amador – phone	X	Jill Johnson	X	Greg Turner-Rahman
X	Alex Corredor	X	Scott Minnich	X	Tao Xing
	Ankan Guria	X	Gordon Murdoch	X	Elowyn Yager - phone
X	Kathy Canfield-Davis - phone	X	Lisa Carlson	X	Jeff Bailey

- I. Approval of the minutes from November 11, 2015
 - Murdoch moved to approve. Seconded by Turner-Rahman.
 - Approved unanimously.

- II. Announcements and reports
 - A. Mentoring program
 - Sean Scoggin, COGS Recruiter, attended the meeting and described our new peer-to-peer mentoring program. The plan is to pair seasoned graduate students with new students to create a graduate community. They are piloting this program this semester and plan to fully roll it out in Fall 2016.
 - Sprague will email recommendations to Scoggin for the mentoring program.
 - Murdoch asked of the possibility of post-docs becoming mentors. McMurtry and Scoggin said they could.
 - B. Ambassador program
 - This program is for international students on campus to connect with prospective graduate students in their native countries. The hope is to help international students transition to Moscow and bridge the cultural gap and make the cultural transition smoother.
 - C. Month of Innovation – April 2016
 - McMurtry shared dates of Month of Innovation events with Council. TEDxUIDAHO – April 9; Undergrad Research Symposium – April 11; 3-Minute Thesis – April 12; Innovation Showcase – April 14.
 - He explained the Three Minute Thesis Competition to the group and encouraged them to look at the website. The hope is to turn it into a state-wide competition in the future.
 - McMurtry appealed to Councilmembers to sign up to judge the Innovation Showcase and Three Minute Thesis.

III. New Business

A. Curricular Items

1. Biology – Discontinue Reproductive Biology Grad Certificate
 - This program does not currently have any students enrolled and has never had significant enrollment.
 - Murdoch moved to approve. Seconded by Turner-Rahman. Approved unanimously.
2. BCB Curriculum Change
 - BCB currently requires 32 credits to graduate. They wish to trim 2 credits to put their program in line with COGS requirements of 30 credits.
 - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Sprague.
 - Approved unanimously.
3. Physics M.S. Curriculum Change / Physics Ph. D. Curriculum Change
 - Physics wishes to limit the maximum number of Phys 599 credits allowed to 3 for thesis/dissertation students.
 - Smith moved to approve. Seconded by Johnson. Approved unanimously.
4. Environmental Science – Discontinue Env Water Science Grad Certificate / Environmental Science – Discontinue Env Contamination Grad Certificate
 - Environmental Science wishes to discontinue the Environmental Water Science and Environmental Contamination Graduate Certificates due to low enrollment. They believed they would be discontinued through the FFF process, but they weren't.
 - Murdoch asked if these were written into the NSF-EPSCOR proposal. Smith does not believe so.
 - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Smith. Approved unanimously.
5. CNR – MOSS Environmental Education Grad Certificate Update
 - There is a need for a science communication course in this certificate program, so the department wishes to remove one field ecology course and add a science communication course to fulfill that need.
 - Johnson moved to approve. Seconded by Turner-Rahman. Approved unanimously.
6. Integrated Architecture and Design Curriculum Change
 - They wish to clean-up the requirements to allow for more flexibility.
 - Xing moved to approve. Seconded by Smith. Approved unanimously.
7. Architecture Curriculum Change
 - These changes are to clean up the degree requirements and define what the studio classes are.
 - Bailey moved to approve. Seconded by Carlson. Approved unanimously.
8. English-Creative Writing Curriculum Change
 - English wishes to change the requirements for their MFA program to require students to do a 1 credit internship working on the magazine (Fugue) that is published by the English department. They will reduce

the number of Distinguished Visiting Writers workshop requirements from 3 to 2 during the program.

- Minnich moved to approve. Seconded by Sprague. Approved unanimously.

B. Discussion Items

1. New Saint Andrews pathway to grad school

- McMurtry explained to the group that the president of New Saint Andrews wishes to create a pathway for their graduates to be accepted in graduate programs at UI. He went over materials about their accrediting body as well as coursework articulations done by UI Office of the Registrar.
- Murdoch suggested we create a pathway for them. Their current requirements are not even close to what is required for our own undergraduates to be admitted into our graduate programs.
- Smith suggested a dual enrollment type of system be set up for NSA students in order to create that pathway.
- Bailey said the issue is that they are not accredited by a regional accreditation body.
- Minnich suggested these students might be an asset to UI because of their literature, communications requirements.
- McMurtry said these students would not likely be going into engineering programs. It would more likely be liberal arts programs – music, English/creative writing, history, etc.
- Murdoch said not meeting the State Board core requirements is an issue. The threshold of breadth of material should be upheld.
- Smith suggested a more manageable step might be to consider their degree an AA degree and set up agreements with undergrad.
- Murdoch said the opportunity to grant the pathway must be a consistent path. We must create the bridge.
- Xing recommended that people from the programs be invited to Graduate Council to discuss whether these students meet their prerequisites and see where the gaps are.
- Johnson asked if any other national institutions accept students from TRACS accredited schools into their graduate programs. McMurtry: We are not sure.
- McMurtry will let NSA know that the conversation has been started and will be continued.

2. Application cut-off dates

- Rance Larsen and Tammy Renfrow attended to tell Council about the new application system and to discuss new deadlines.
- Larsen explained that the process to apply will be different with this new system, and instead of having a general “apply here” button on the main web page, students will have to go into the page of the program to which they are interested in applying and access the application there. There will no longer be one general application; instead, there will be several based on the requirements of the different programs.

- Murdoch expressed concern with the domestic deadline. He cited last minute funding opportunities that arise and the need to grab a student at the last minute.
 - Larsen explained that with the new online application system there is a need to have a date on which the application will no longer be accessible.
 - Bailey suggested changing the Fall Domestic deadline from July 1 to July 15.
 - Xing said the May 1 International deadline is too early to know if they will have grant funding.
 - Renfrow said if the student submits the application before the deadline, then they will be able to access it to upload documents after the deadline. The application will only be closed to students who have not yet submitted an application.
3. International applications
- Larsen provided the group with results of a survey that was conducted with peer institutions concerning required materials for admission of international students. This discussion will continue at a later date.
4. Interpretation of intent on letters of recommendation
- McMurtry read the policy for letters of recommendation to the group.
 - The ALCP program has written letters of recommendation for their ALCP students to get into graduate programs. McMurtry asked Councilmembers if they feel as though this should be allowed.
 - These letters cannot speak to the student's preparedness for the graduate program.
 - General consensus amongst Council is that one letter from ALCP is acceptable.

Future Meetings:

March 2 – Commons Crest

March 30 – Commons Horizon

April 27 – Commons Aurora

All are on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. (Pacific).