Graduate Council Meeting Agenda
November 1, 2017 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.
IRIC 321

| x | Jerry McMurtry | x | Ben Hunter | Alistair Smith |
| x | Esmael Alyami | x | Stacy Isenbarger | Fahmid Tousif |
| x | Julie Amador - phone | x | Jill Johnson | Daniel Strawn |
| x | Dan Eveleth | x | Gordon Murdoch | Elowyn Yager - phone |
| x | Laura Holyoke | x | Kelly Quinnett | Ata Zadehgol |

Guests: Mark Warner, Gary Austin, Chris Williams, Rusty Baker

I. Approval of the minutes from October 18, 2017
   • Moved to approve by Eveleth. Seconded by Isenbarger.
   • Approved unanimously

II. Announcements and Reports
   A. Graduate Teaching Assistants and Lab Assistants
      • Comments/concerns:
        ▪ There was a suggestion to strike “graduate” from the TA requirement indicating 18 graduate credits are required. Some programs do not even require 18 graduate credits for the degree.
        ▪ Warner said this language will cause an issue with tribal elders teaching their courses.
          - McMurtry: We will work with people who have particular expertise.
        ▪ McMurtry: Accrediting bodies are requiring guidelines like these.
        ▪ Are Grad TAs who are only teaching labs required to have 18 credits?
          - No, but they must have a Bachelor’s degree in that area.
        ▪ Concern that the criteria is more lenient for undergrad lab assistants than for graduate TAs.
        ▪ Members expressed concern that this could be limiting.
        ▪ Suggested changes: Say 18 credits at UI required or 18 credits toward their graduate degree, rather than requiring 18 graduate credits.
   
   B. Guiding Principles for TA Awards
      • Feedback from departments:
        ▪ Suggested that number 3 indicating preference will be given to terminal degrees be struck because it is a slippery slope.
          - McMurtry said that is to encourage more terminal degrees.
        ▪ Murdoch said many programs have doctoral programs, but industry wants only people with Master’s degrees.
        ▪ Murdoch said he will send feedback to McMurtry.
        ▪ Another draft of this will be brought back to a future meeting.

III. Discussion
   A. Student Petition (Austin)
      • Gary Austin attended the meeting to speak to this petition.
      • Student is the spouse of a UI employee who has been doing research in a college. Student applied once and didn’t get accepted because they did not meet the TOEFL requirement. They hired a private tutor and failed to get the minimum required
TOEFL score a second time. Student is two courses away from completing the degree. The department would like to admit them with less than the minimum required TOEFL score.

- Councilmembers agreed that the TOEFL test does not necessarily test a person’s English skills, rather their ability to take a test.
- Smith moved to approve accepting this student with a 71 TOEFL. Seconded by Isenbarger. Approved unanimously.

B. Curriculum Changes

1. Statistics Certificate (Williams)
   - The Statistics department wants to make Stat 431 a prerequisite rather than part of the certificate curriculum.
   - Murdoch moved to approve. Seconded by Quinnett. Approved unanimously.

2. MSAT (Baker)
   - This change was to drop a biomechanics course that is not needed in order to shift focus to courses that are more appropriate for the program.
   - Eveleth moved to approve. Seconded by Isenbarger. Approved unanimously.

C. Clinical Graduate Faculty Definition

- McMurtry pointed out a discrepancy between FSH 1565 and 1700. One section says Clinical Faculty can be committee chairs, and the other section says they can be committee members but not chairs.
- The proposal is to make the department chair be responsible for approving clinical faculty to be on Graduate Faculty.
  - Comments/concerns:
    - This is a slippery slope. What is to prevent clinical faculty lines from eliminating tenure track faculty positions?
    - Suggestion was made that the general rule should be that clinical faculty not be allowed to serve on Graduate Faculty, and make it a case-by-case exception to allow it.
    - Could the rule allow Clinical Faculty to chair only non-thesis committees?
- This has been tabled until next time due to too much uncertainty.

D. Criteria for Graduate Recruitment Day

- Tabled until next time due to the time.

Adjourned at 5:20pm