

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2017
IRIC 321
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

X	Jerry McMurtry		Ben Hunter		Alistair Smith
	Ayobami Adegbite	X	Jill Johnson	X	Karen Trebitz
	Julie Amador - phone	X	Scott Minnich	X	Greg Turner-Rahman
	Jeff Bailey	X	Gordon Murdoch		Elowyn Yager - phone
X	Laura Holyoke	X	Kelly Quinnett	X	Ata Zadehgo

- I. Approval of the minutes from March 1, 2017
 - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Holyoke.
 - Approved with one abstention (Murdoch)

- II. Announcements and reports
 - A. COGS Dean Search Update
 - Councilmembers were reminded that the Provost asked participants of the various portions of the interview process to provide feedback via a form on the web by end of business, Thursday, April 6.
 - B. COGS Spring Events
 - McMurtry asked councilmembers to volunteer to judge the events if they had time to do so.
 1. Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition – Tuesday, April 11
 2. Innovation Showcase – Thursday, April 13
 - C. NSF Site Visit
 - NSF will be here doing a site visit April 25. They might want to talk to people on Graduate Council. If so, we will be in touch.
 - D. AGEP
 - McMurtry reported there are travel funds available for faculty to travel to Native schools and or bring Native students to campus for recruitment.
 - E. TA Task Force Update
 - We are waiting for data from Institutional Research. As soon as we have that, another meeting will be scheduled.

- III. Discussion Items
 - A. Curriculum Items
 1. Critical Infrastructure Resilience Graduate Certificate – UCC-17-028b
 - Michael Haney participated via Zoom. He talked about the need in the industry for engineers with computer security training. They want to create a graduate certificate titled “Certificate of Critical Infrastructure Resilience” for this purpose.
 - Murdoch asked if there is concern with students in these programs. Does UI assume any liability in having programs like this? -Haney: Not teaching

students how to become hackers. We need to be defensive against hackers. They are being taught defensive computer skills.

-- Quinnett asked if there is a minimum number of 500-level courses that need to be taken for this to be a graduate certificate. -McMurtry: Yes, 50% of the coursework must be at or above 500.

- McMurtry cautioned them on using too many 300-level classes because if any of these students want to use these classes on a graduate-level study plan, they will not be able to include the 300's. He also asked Haney to write a synopsis to be used in the catalog and to include a statement about the 50% of coursework at 500-level or above requirement.

- Haney said INL would prefer this certificate include a capstone course. They are looking to add one next year.

- He will remove the 300-level courses and add the synopsis paragraph.

-- A councilmember asked if this program can be completed via distance education, and if so, why is only Idaho Falls selected in the Geographical Area section. -Haney said he would fix that and mark all locations.

■ Holyoke moved to approve with changes. Seconded by Johnson.

Approved unanimously with changes as suggested above.

2. Graduate Environmental Education and Science Communication Certificate – UCC-17-036

- Karla Eitel attended to discuss this item.

--They are trying to transition the grad program in McCall from MS to MNR. They are increasing credit hours on a few courses and are adding credits for a course that previously did not have credits.

■ Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Murdoch. Approved unanimously.

3. Natural Resources and Society – UCC-17-036b

- Karla Eitel also discussed this item. They are changing this degree to MNR because students are seeking a professional degree. They moved from a non-thesis project to a portfolio. The optimal number of students in this program is 24. This will count toward the goal of R-1.

■ Holyoke moved to approve. Seconded by Turner-Rahman. Approved unanimously.

4. Restoration Ecology Certificate Discontinuance – UCC-17-029

■ Holyoke moved to approve. Seconded by Johnson. Approved unanimously.

B. Navitas – Marie Neal via Zoom

- Navitas requests that Graduate Council consider accepting a 2.5 GPA for students being admitted through them. This will open the recruitment ability of their counselors. There is great competition in the marketplace for pathway programs, and other institutions are allowing 2.5 GPA. Not doing the same might make UI look less desirable to students trying to come here through this program.
- Marie Neal and McMurtry met with Larry Stauffer, Marc Chopin, Marla Kraut, and Randy Teal a few weeks ago. They are all in support of this.
- Questions/Comments:
-Murdoch expressed concern that lower GPA students might not be successful.

--Neal: It is a mix of students who are successful. It is not always the case of higher GPA students being successful and lower GPA students being unsuccessful.

-McMurtry: Navitas students will have a cohort code, so their progress can be checked at any time.

-Zadehgol: Do you test the students? How are they assessed?

--Neal: GPA & TOEFL/IELTS

--McMurtry: UI gave Navitas minimum requirements for the degree programs. Example: for Ag Econ, calculus is required and a 400 level stats class at minimum.

-Zadehgol: How long is the contract?

--McMurtry: SBOE signed a long term contract.

-Neal: Navitas will not do anything to jeopardize UI. International students are looking for location and college ranking.

- Holyoke moved to approve the acceptance of a 2.5 GPA for students entering through the Navitas pathway program. Seconded by Turner-Rahman. Approved with one abstention (Trebitz).

C. Pearson Versant Test

- Navitas uses this test and are asking UI to accept this test for English proficiency, in addition to the other tests that are accepted. This would simplify the process for international students to be accepted at UI.
- We currently only allow TOEFL, IELTS, and M-Lab, so if a student has already taken the Pearson Versant, they would be required to take a second test.
 - Holyoke moved to approve accepting the Pearson Versant English test. Seconded by Zadehgol. Approved unanimously.

Future Meetings:
May 10 – IRIC 305

All meetings are at 3:30 p.m. Pacific.