

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 27, 2017 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**IRIC 321**

X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Ben Hunter	X	Alistair Smith
X	Esmael Alyami	X	Stacy Isenbarger	-	Fahmid Tousif
-	Julie Amador - phone	X	Jill Johnson	X	Daniel Strawn
X	Dan Eveleth	X	R. Heinse for Murdoch	X	Elowyn Yager - phone
X	Laura Holyoke	X	Kelly Quinnett	X	Ata Zadehgol

Guests: Mark Warner (CLASS), Dwaine Hubbard (Registrar's Office)

- I. Approval of the minutes from August 30, 2017
  - Smith moved to approve. Seconded by Eveleth.
  - Approved with one abstention.
  
- II. Announcements and Reports
  - A. Graduate Council Rep to Serve on UCC Deadlines Subcommittee
    - McMurtry asked for a volunteer to sit on the University Curriculum Committee's Deadlines Subcommittee. Joe Law is heading up the committee.
    - Smith agreed to serve as COGS's rep to that subcommittee.
  - B. TA Support
    - McMurtry reported that TA support is high on the priorities for current UI leadership.
    - He talked about the work that is being done to build a robust, fair, and sustainable TA support system. The goal is to get TA salaries campus-wide in line with the OK State average salaries.
    - Part of this plan will include centralizing TA's. If that happens, TA salaries will become part of the CEC process.
    - Concerns from colleges:
      - Given that it is recruitment season, when will departments get the info?
        - McMurtry: ASAP. He reported that he has meetings scheduled with each college leadership team in the coming weeks.
      - There is a rumor that SHIP is not included in this new plan. Is that true?
        - McMurtry: That is true. Including SHIP would require an additional \$455K+. He plans to request SHIP for all TA's in a future UBFC budget request.
    - McMurtry explained that he broke it down by the 4 digit CIP code for each department when comparing UI to the OK State study.
      - Smith reported that CNR has a single graduate program and has a single TA salary rate for the entire college. They do not want to see that undone by separating out the departments by CIP code.
        - McMurtry said he will discuss it with CNR leadership when they meet.
  
- III. Discussion
  - A. Natural Resources and Environmental Law Certificate
    - Jerry Long attended the meeting to explain this certificate to members.
    - The courses in this proposed certificate program frequently have non-law students. The students will get permission from each faculty member in order to take each course.
    - They plan to make this available online in the future.

- There is an informal pre-requisite, which is to have a degree in a related subject area.
  - Questions:
    - Is there already a Water Resources/Law certificate.
      - No.
    - How quickly could a student do this?
      - Each course is offered each year.
    - Will these students pay law fees or regular grad fees?
      - McMurtry doesn't think so, but we will have to follow-up with Student Accounts.
- B. MNR Curriculum Items
1. Fire Ecology and Management Option
    - Catalog clean-up to remove courses that do not exist.
  2. Integrated Natural Resources Option
    - Should BE450 be removed? It will soon be SWS450.
      - Dwaine Hubbard (Registrar's Office) was a guest. He said he will watch for this to come to UCC, and he will fix it.
- Both items were voted on together.
  - Eveleth moved to approve. Seconded by Holyoke. Approved unanimously.
- C. Replace IP Grades with P/NP
- Dwaine Hubbard attended on behalf of the Registrar's Office to discuss this issue. He reported this went to faculty senate several years ago and was shot down.
  - There is a proposal to eliminate IP grades for 500/599/600 research courses. IP is defined as A/B/P work. A student should not be given an IP grade if they are not doing passing work on their research. There have been several instances where faculty want to assign a failing grade later for IP grades that have been given. This can be problematic if a faculty member gives several semesters of IP and then tries to give an F at the end.
  - The proposal is to remove all letter grades from these specific courses and only allowing P/NP grades to be given.
  - Comments/questions:
    - Could it be opened up to allow letter grades, rather than only P/NP? Faculty like to give a letter grade to evaluate their students.
      - Why can't the annual evaluation be used to give feedback to the students?
    - P/NP will carry no weight on the student's GPA.
    - What about educating the faculty on the fact that IP grades are for A, B, P work ONLY?
    - Being required to grade semester-by-semester would be good because of the mess caused by several IP's given with a failing grade at the end.
    - If an IP is given when it shouldn't be, it makes it more difficult to justify dismissing a student down the road, since IP implies passing work.
    - If a student is given a NP, will those credits count, or could it potentially cause the student to drop between full-time status for the semester?
      - Those credits will not count, so there is a potential for the student to drop below full-time for the semester.
      - In light of this, members are NOT in favor of this change, as it could impact their funding if they drop below full-time.
    - McMurtry reminded the group that they can set the grading type when the 500/599/600 courses are set-up each semester.
    - Warner suggested they think about unintended consequences.

- McMurtry asked members to take this information back to their departments for discussion. He will get information together to send to them.
- D. Dissertation Subcommittee
- The subcommittee was given kudos for their work.
  - Comments/questions:
    - Does there need to be a statement of attribution from other collaborators on published articles?
    - Should the language explicitly say “writing” rather than “completing” the dissertation?
    - Should there be a limit on how many co-authored papers can be used in the dissertation?
      - McMurtry: That’s up to the dissertation committee.
    - Should “collaborative research cannot be more than 1/3 of the dissertation” be added?
    - The intent is to make the students articulate their “ownership” of the dissertation.
      - Eveleth likes the action of making the students have to write about their contributions. This skill is one that will be required throughout life.
    - Should there also be a statement addressing the thesis as a terminal degree?
      - Isenbarger and Quinnett will meet to take a stab at writing a statement concerning a thesis as a terminal degree.
    - Several members agree with making the dissertation document less restrictive, rather than more, to leave it up to the committees.
- E. Assistant Definitions – FHS 1565
- McMurtry said there is a need to create a GA classification. There are a few positions that fall outside the TA/RA definitions but should still classify as an assistantship; such as, the Writing Center and SRC.
  - This will have to go up through the Budget Office and Controller to get their approval for additional non-resident tuition waivers for this classification.
- F. Professional Science Masters
- They are bringing back language from the original NOI that was never put into the catalog.
  - Comments/questions:
    - Members thought CNR leadership and were talking to CALS to see if they would take it.
      - From its inception in 2010, it was attached to Environmental Science.
    - There was concern with how the students in this program are counted.
      - That is a higher-level, upper-administration issue. Our goal is to provide a robust experience for students, and these programs do that.
    - McMurtry will bring these concerns to the deans and provost.
    - What is the purpose of this?
      - To get the courses listed in the catalog.
    - The former Director of Environmental Science said, a few years ago, that UI is no longer in the PSM Association and no longer enrolling students.
      - McMurtry: Dues have been paid. UI is still in the association.
  - Johnson moved to approve adding this language to the catalog. Seconded by Holyoke. Passed with 10 votes in favor and two opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.