

**Graduate Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 31, 2018 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**IRIC 321**

X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Ben Hunter	X	Alistair Smith
X	Esmael Alyami	X	Greg Turner-Rahman		Fahmid Tousif
X	Julie Amador - phone	X	Jill Johnson	X	Daniel Strawn
X	Jeff Bailey	X	Gordon Murdoch	X	Elowyn Yager - phone
X	Laura Holyoke	X	Kelly Quinnett	X	Ata Zadehgol

Guests: Mark Warner, Allen Kitchel, Rusty Baker, Brenda Schroeder, Joe Law

- I. Approval of the minutes from December 13, 2017
  - Holyoke moved to approve. Seconded by Turner-Rahman. Approved with two abstentions.
- II. Announcements and Reports
  - A. McMurtry announced that he has been working with the Registrar's Office on getting an electronic signature page done for theses and dissertations. It will be part of workflow and will replace the current signature pages. This will be helpful because many students have committee members who are all over the world. They hope to roll it out in Fall 2018.
  - B. Electronic Non-Thesis Requirement Form is on the docket as well.
  - C. TA Update
    - Everything has gone through the Budget Office for the new TA plan
      - full TAs will still receive a full waiver of out-of-state tuition
      - in-state fees/tuition will now be waived for full TAs, too
  - D. Graduate Recruitment Day will be March 2. McMurtry expects 30-35 students to attend.
- III. Discussion
  - A. Curriculum Items
    1. M.S. Plant Pathology (Brenda Schroeder)
      - This proposal is the outcome of the bifurcation of the PSES Department
      - Smith moved to approve. Seconded by Bailey. Approved unanimously.
  - B. DATs serving on PhD Committees (Allen Kitchel/Rusty Baker)
    - The DAT program requested that COGS allow Lindsay Larkins to serve as co-chair of a PhD committee. McMurtry denied the request because Larkins degree is DAT which is not equivalent to PhD.
    - They are petitioning Graduate Council for two things
      1. To allow Larkins to serve as co-major professor for this one PhD committee
      2. To allow Larkins to serve as major professor on PhD committees indefinitely
    - Questions/comments:
      - Baker: She has expertise.
      - Smith: When he is looking for equivalency, he looks for 3-4 peer reviewed publications. He only sees one on Larkins CV. For this reason, he agrees with the denial of the request.

- Q: Are all faculty in the Athletic Training Program Clinical Faculty?  
--Baker: Yes, because they are a self-supporting program.
  - Q: Is this a dissertation program?  
--Baker: No. They must submit two peer review articles to finish.  
-Baker will serve as co-major professor with Larkins if this is approved.  
-Concern was expressed about this setting a precedent.
  - Q: Will the student be doing a dissertation?  
--Baker: It is a typical 3 manuscript dissertation.  
-Baker: DAT is a post-professional degree.  
-Councilmember expressed that he has seen Master's level people with the same qualifications, and they are not qualified to be major professor for PhD students.  
-Johnson: Lines shouldn't be blurred. There should be distinction between Clinical Faculty and Research Faculty.
  - Members voted whether to allow Lindsay Larkins to serve as co-Major Professor on Aspen Summerland's PhD committee with a degree not recognized as equivalent to PhD.
    - 6 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 3 abstentions.
    - Upon review of Roberts Rules of Order, it was determined that this petition passes with a simple majority.
  - It is anticipated that a second petition will come before Graduate Council in the future to allow Dr. Larkins to chair PhD committees indefinitely.
- C. Co-Major Professors
- McMurtry told Council that co-major professors have not traditionally been allowed except for M.A.T. programs, other than by special request. COGS is getting more and more requests to allow co-major professors.
    - Scenarios in which he has approved them are: in interdisciplinary programs, when someone is retiring but wants to remain as the major professor, when there is a medical issue, etc.
  - Questions/comments:
    - Smith said they like to have co-major professors in CNR for new faculty members who have never mentored a PhD student.
    - What is the role of co-major professor? What is the benefit to the student?  
--A couple of examples: If the major professor has a medical issue, the co-major professor can take over if needed; in interdisciplinary studies when it would best serve the student to have a major professor from two different fields.
    - Holyoke asked McMurtry why he denied Dr. Larkins.  
--Because she doesn't have a PhD, and he is concerned about setting precedent.
    - McMurtry told the group that an additional committee member is required on committees with co-major professors.
    - Who has the power? What if there is a power struggle?
  - McMurtry will put together language for Graduate Council to review at a future meeting.

D. Student Re-enrollment Petition (Law)

- A student has sat out since 2016. The student petitioned the department to re-enroll and was denied. The student petitioned COGS, and Dean McMurtry upheld the decision made by the department, so the student is petitioning Graduate Council to allow re-enrollment.
- This student had a defense scheduled in 2014. It was cancelled at the last minute. Six committee members resigned, and then the major professor resigned.
- Joe Law agreed to take this student while they worked things out.
- Law tried to find a new major professor. Every person he asked declined.
- Law advised the student to complete two peer reviewed papers to be reenrolled. The student refused to do so.
- Could there be legal ramifications for not re-enrolling this student?  
-Legal Counsel has been involved with this case for several years. The student refuses to do any work and feels as though they should be done and just defend and submit the dissertation.
- Zadehgol moved to vote on this re-enrollment petition. Seconded by Murdoch.
  - 0 votes in favor, 12 votes against, 1 abstention.
  - Petition is not approved.

E. COGS Dean role in petitions/FSH 1640.08 – COGS Admissions Committee

- McMurtry told councilmembers that he and Rance Larsen make decisions on students who do not meet all admissions requirements. He also makes decisions about whether to allow overaged credits.
- He brings any sensitive issues to Graduate Council; for example, the student seeking a second PhD, the student with the low TOEFL scores, etc.
- He would like wording to express Council's views on this.
- Questions/comments:
  - Do we make a list of COGS petitions that are reviewed?  
--No.
  - It might be a good idea to track success of students who are admitted with less than the minimum requirements.
- Council would like to see a report of COGS petitions that are dealt with each semester.
- McMurtry said a list will be kept of all COGS petitions. It will be sent to Council members each semester.

F. Thesis/Dissertation Statements

- Zadehgol shared the following feedback from the College of Engineering
  - Make two documents that discuss the documents separately or have clearer headings that separate them.
  - Clarify the non-thesis section.
  - Clarify the last paragraph. It appears to describe non-research activities to complete the Master's degree.
  - What is the impact of these changes on PSM?

- Strawn – feedback from CALS
    - Need more rules for non-thesis Master's. It was suggested that they need more than just a major professor.
  - Hunter – feedback from Library
    - There is nothing to discuss that dissertations are publicly accessible artifacts. Perhaps that should be added to the language.
  - Quinnett will edit the document and will bring it back to the next meeting.
- G. Additional items
- Smith said there is request from CNR to come up with language to identify/define in the catalog what is online or distance education.
    - McMurtry will follow-up with the distance education people and will bring it back to a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Spring Meetings:

February 28

March 28

April 18

May 9

All meetings are on Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Pacific) in IRIC 321.