Graduate Council Meeting Agenda
October 21st, 2020– 3:30-5:00 p.m.
ZOOM

x	Jerry McMurtry	x	Kristin Henrich (Library)	x	David Tank (COS)
x	Julie Amador (EHHS)	x	Pedram Rezamand (At-Large/CALS)	x	Elowyn Yager (At-Large/ENGR)
x	Linda Chen (CBE)	x	Kelly Quinnett (CLASS)	x	Ata Zadehgol (ENGR)
x	Dan Cronan (CAA)	x	Kerri Vierling (CNR/ENVS)	x	Seth Rose (GPSA)
x	Robert Heinse (At-Large/UWP)		Dan Strawn (CALS)	x	Alexander Blanco (GPSA)

I.   Approval of the minutes from September 30th, 2020
      Minutes approved unanimously as adjusted

II.   Old Business
      a.   Curriculum Changes- CNR
            a.   Fire Certificate Curriculum Change
                  i.   This certificate will be using 407 without the 510 option at this point in time. This clears up the question we had last time.
                  ii.   Approved unanimously.

      b.   Update from Graduate Admissions
            a.   Catalog Language for Readmission Application
                  i.   There is currently no specification or mention of requirements in the catalog. Explanation can be found on the readmission page of the Graduate Admissions website.
                  ii.   Council members asked: should catalog language remain the same, and we can just update the readmission information on the webpage? Or should we add existing language to the catalog?
                  iii. Graduate Admissions will consider this issue and bring it back to the next meeting.
            b.   Denial Reason in Denial Letter
                  i.   Disclosing some reasons for denying admission may put the student in a less than desirable situation (i.e. "no good references"). It is possible to only include a handful of reasons, such as "no faculty available".
                        1.   Currently students are not provided a reason and are directed to the department
                  ii.   Members asked- is it possible to have two lists of reasons? Perhaps an internal reason not necessarily communicated to the student, and an external one that is shared?
                        1.   There may not be a one size fits all approach because grad programs are so different. Two lists may help with this.
                        2.   We could also include a text box to type in a reason if it was not available in the drop-down list
                  iii. Communication is often solely with major professor. Members asked- could the denial reason be limited to what COGS can give the student, and departments and major professors give additional information beyond this?
                        1.   Having an internal and external list would help with this.

2. Examples of an external reasons: no room, no funding, no research projects, etc.

    iv. The most common reason for denial is the lack of available faculty. Lack of available funding is usually a direct communication between the PI and candidates and often goes beyond researchers (a student may be a TA that doesn't have money for research).

    v. Providing a second page with possible reasons for denial, as opposed to the internal/external lists is also an option. This could eliminate liability and reduce the likelihood that students will come back to contest the admission decision.

    vi. Graduate Admissions will draft an example list of denial reasons and bring it to Council during our next meeting.

III. New Business
- a. PSM changes
  - i. This change moves the Professional Science Masters from CNR to COGS, changes names, and drops a few courses as well.
  - ii. Dean Becker has signed off on these changes and the proposal is sitting at the Provost's office awaiting council approval.
  - iii. It looks like we will get funding to support transferable skills courses.
    1. At least three new PSM options will be developed.
  - iv. Members asked- is this being moved to COGS to facilitate this as an interdisciplinary program?
    1. Yes, enrollment all goes with the major professor as in interdisciplinary programs. Program does slightly bump into MNR of CNR, but now we can manage this as interdisciplinary. COGS will do assessments and follow up with students, submit payments, update the website, etc. It seemed to make more sense to do this centrally (through COGS).
  - v. Members asked- Does this open a can of worms to other programs that were managed by COGS and then pushed back to the department?
    1. This seems to be the right thing to do for this specific degree. Moving forward, programs could bring this to our attention if they are interested in moving their programs to COGS as well.
  - vi. The list of particular courses within the degree was developed last year.
  - vii. Approved with one abstention.

- b. Transcript Requirement Policy
  - i. Students must provide transcripts from all attended institutions, even if they didn't earn a degree. All transcripts are required so we can ensure we have a complete history of the student's education up to the time they apply for a graduate degree. Requiring all transcripts may not be necessary, especially if courses have been listed on another transcript as well.
  - ii. Additionally, students may not be able to order transcripts of courses from a long time ago. There have been a few instances where students were not able to complete an application because of this. Veteran applicants are one student population that are often affected.
  - iii. Proposal to waive transcript requirements for transcripts with fewer than 9 credits.
    1. Students will list all schools that they have attended, then we will waive official transcript requirements for schools where they have earned less than 9 credits

and those courses are listed on a different transcript (including credits and the course grades).
2. If students were transferring graduate work to their credit from another institution, we would need to see an official transcript to transfer those credits.
3. The 9-credit limit applies per institution, not overall.
4. Many institutions are removing requirements for transcripts with few credits in an attempt to remove barriers for students.
   iv. Graduate Admissions will adjust the proposed catalog language for transcript requirements and bring it back to Council the following meeting.
   v. Approved unanimously

c. Curriculum Changes- LARC
   i. Landscape Architecture is making program changes to align with accreditation standards that are going into effect in 2021.
   ii. The department is trying to distinguish graduate curriculum through the seamless path to a graduate degree- the seamless degree will no longer be a viable path often. The graduate program now needs to be accredited on its own.
   iii. This program change proposal creates a 3-year stand-alone master's degree that accreditation calls for. The proposed program is a 72-credit hour curriculum for thesis/non-thesis students, where one year of advanced standing is possible.
   iv. There is no change to learning objectives. The explanation document accompanies changes.
   v. Change to LARC 510- it will now be a stand-alone course.
   vi. Members asked about standard course numbers- 599 can be used for up to 16 credits.
1. This will be sent back so they can change it to 12 credits of 599.
   vii. There have been some changes to elective course requirements as well. Even students with advance standing benefit from having a diverse knowledge base, which is why they're sticking with 12 credits of electives required.
   viii. Program changes approved unanimously
   ix. Council has tabled the two graduate classes that we'll be adjusting to 599

d. Program Changes- CNR
   i. MNR, MS, and PhD changes proposed within CNR
   ii. MNR- nonthesis program
1. This option is for Fish and Wildlife Management. CIP code change is proposed, and the new code is better matched to what CNR does.
2. Confusion around CIP code:
   a. Under the emphasis option, should it be 03, not 13? 13 is usually education.
   iii. Proposal to create new option with Fish Wildlife Science Management
1. 30 credit total follows standard MNR structure
2. Requires classes and portfolio and can be done online or in campus. Will meet a big need for folks in NR. Core classes and others
3. For 5xx and 5yy- we do have provisional numbers that have been proposed in management, social science, and science communication aspects.
4. Approved unanimously assuming that provisional numbers are finalized.
   iv. MS PhD CIP code program change approved unanimously.

    e.   Review Bylaws
        i. Subcommittee of Graduate Council (Henise, Cronan, and Quinnett) to look at bylaws as representatives of grad faculty, will be paired with a grad faculty meeting

    f.   COGS Petition- Preliminary Exams
        i. Student petitions discussed
       ii. Petitions approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 4:57

Future Meetings:
11/11/2020
12/2/2020
1/20/2021

All meetings will be on Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Pacific) via Zoom

Readmission Application

Current Catalog Language for the Readmission Application: https://catalog.uidaho.edu/student-services/admission/#graduate%20admission

Returning Students

University of Idaho graduate students who have been absent for two or more years or who have completed one degree and wish to enroll in further courses must file an Application for Readmission. Readmission must be approved by the department in whose degree program returning graduate students wishes to enroll.

A Returning Graduate Student wishing to return to the same degree/major:

Graduate Admissions will begin the approval process upon receipt of the online Application for Re-Admission (see B-1). The application must be completed for the program you were previously enrolled.

A Returning Graduate Student wishing to change to different degree/major:

Students who wish admission in a new degree/major option or want to change to different program must submit a Change of Curriculum form to College of Graduate Studies with all the appropriate departmental approvals. Returning students changing programs must complete an online Application for Re-Admission (indicating the new degree or program) with Graduate Admissions in addition to the Change of Curriculum form.

Denial Reasons

Key	Value	Category	Index Value	Export Value	Status	
				gr_denial_reason		
Insert						
gr_denial_reason	Applied too late					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Failed in person interview					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Failed phone interview					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Insufficient background in area of study					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Lacking prerequisite courses					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Letters of Recommendation not supportive					Edit
gr_denial_reason	No current opening					Edit
gr_denial_reason	No faculty available					Edit
gr_denial_reason	No faculty in area of students interest					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Not a good fit for the program					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Not competitive respective to other candidates					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Not strong Statement of Purpose					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Other					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Poor GPA					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Poor GPA in Major courses					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Poor test scores					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Poor writing sample or portfolio					Edit
gr_denial_reason	Research interests not clearly stated					Edit

Proposal to amend the current transcript requirement policy for the graduate application

In order to obtain a complete education history, Graduate Admissions requires all transcripts from all attended post-secondary institutions, including transfer credits that show graded course work for all academic work completed.

This policy is sometimes detrimental to domestic applicants, especially traditional students, who may have difficulty in ordering all transcripts from schools where they took 3-9 credits.

Proposal: waive transcripts for transfer credits if less than 9 credits have been earned AND the grades/grading points are listed on the transcript of the transfer-in school.

Out of 20 higher education institutions researched, 11 require transcripts for each institution attended. Six institutions do not require transcripts from schools where students obtained less than 6-8 credits or for transfer credits that list grades/grading points.

	ALL Transcripts Needed	Waiver for Certain Credits	No policy disclosed
1	Columbia University	NYU	UCLA
2	North Dakota State University	US Davis	Arizona State
3	Colorado State	Kent State University	Univ of Houston
4	Oregon State University	University of Massachusetts-Boston	
5	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Univ of Oregon	
6	University of Texas at Austin	University of San Diego	
7	University of Arizona		
8	USC		
9	Florida State		
10	UC Berkley		
11	Purdue		

Program Change Links to CIM

https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=172

https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=226

https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=258

https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=261

https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/courseadmin/?key=11977

https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/courseadmin/?key=11978