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.