Graduate Council Agenda
4/18/2024– 3:30-5:00 p.m.

I. Minutes from March 28, 2024 approved as read
II. Jerry's announcements
   a. No May meeting unless necessary, reconvene in the fall
   b. Council members ending this year/have the summer to appoint or vote for new or returning appointees in their areas. Fall 2024. Grant, Ann, Paul, and Sarah are rolling off.
   New GPSA reps will be Philip and Carson.

These items are in a shared folder

III. Course/curriculum changes to approve:
   a. 402: Environmental Science – move face to face to online delivery. Vote: Unanimous. Move forward.

IV. Other items:
   a. Grad Faculty Review at other institutions varies.
      Quick Table/overview of some peer institutions in folder.
      PD and annual evaluation—a bit cumbersome and 3 years of documented issues to remove.
      Interested in looking into guidelines for faculty, the current process for graduate faculty seems like just a check mark and no guidance for entering the role as MP.
      What mechanisms do we need to improve grad student experience. Ideas mentioned were establishing new criteria, mentorship, and research production?
      Questions to ponder:
      How would this translate to small programs with quality versus quality. How do you measure quality?
      Trends in faculty—student fear retaliation...some sort of conversation or tools to use, to address concerns.
      Grad only vs UG/GR. What is the right path for us at Idaho?
      How to address poor mentoring? Survey. How many unsuccessful attempts are there without graduates?
      What’s the procedure to remove from committees? Ask MP to step off or down on committee whether personality conflict or change in research scope. If it is not in the best interest of the student, professors should remove themselves. No formal tracking happens, but when there are
trends with certain faculty members and student achievement or lack of achievement, it is noticeable.

NSF requirements-contract for MP/student agreement. Mentoring piece. Best to work it out with the mentor. Bridge to Doc example - Mentoring plans are completed upfront for understanding each other and expectations. No qualitative input for the mentoring but we have it for teaching.

Multiple signatures for hires. By laws and eligibly for graduate faculty to include super senior instructors-not being paid for that. FSG 1700 vote for entire graduate faculty. 

Link to FSH 1565 https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/policy/policies/fsh/1/1565

Look at this this summer and get in line with NSF regs in advance.

b. Change the priority application deadline from February 1 to January 15 for Summer and Fall admission. Rolling admission means keep open until Fall starts. Catalog issue. So have to vote. First consideration deadline. Understand application deadlines. Not a hard stop. International apps take longer and 64% of apps are international. This new deadline will not prevent students applying after January 15 but it will ensure that the Graduate Admissions office can start sending applications for departmental review earlier. The new deadline will also align us with other peer institutions. Important Note: if a department has an earlier deadline, that will take priority over the COGS deadlines. Form for each program to choose deadlines and such. Vote. Unanimous.

c. Proposal to change the admission process for the readmission application. Currently, all applications are sent to the academic program for admission review and approval. We identified five types of readmission/re-enrollment applications:
   1. Students applying to continue the same program/degree/concentration
   2. Students applying to change the program/degree/concentration
   3. Students who completed a graduate degree, applying for a second degree/program
   4. Students who completed their coursework and want to reopen their student record to apply for graduation or sustain their thesis/dissertation
   5. Students who seek to reopen their completed student record to graduate with a certificate

Proposal: grant direct entry without departmental review for students in scenarios 4) and 5). Readmission criteria in the catalog so need to adjust language. Approval to open even at the end of semester. Vote: Unanimous.

Announcements:
GPSA Poster Comp April 23, 8:30-9:30 IRIC Atrium. Followed by 2 hours in ISUB. Send to Grad Faculty.
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Adjourned.