

Graduate Council Minutes

Friday, September 7, 2018

Attendance: Gordon Brooks, Geoff Dabelko, LJ Edmonds, Charlotte Elster, Chris Hayes, Brian McCarthy, Maria Modayil, Greg Newton, Shawn Ostermann, Ann Paulins, Beth Quitslund, Andy Ray, Jennifer Smith, Katie Tadlock

Excused: Terry Cluse-Tolar, Pete Harrington, Alexandra Hibbitt, Janet Hulm, Wojciech Jadwisienczak, David Koonce, John McCarthy, Chris Moberg, Erik Ramsey, Scott Smith

Convened: The meeting convened at 3:09 P.M.

1. Approval of the April 13, 2018 meeting minutes

Council did not achieve quorum, so was tabled until the next meeting.

2. Chair's Report: Gordon Brooks

Introductions were made and Gordon announced that new members have yet to be appointed. New members will be appointed and join the council by the next meeting.

A few upcoming Graduate Council meeting locations are yet to be determined (TBD).

The information will be distributed when known.

3. Remarks by Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate College: Beth Quitslund

- Beth stated that some council work may need revisiting because of state and undergraduate admissions issues.
- Beth introduced a memo entitled "Recommendation re: 'Double-Counting'" (see Appendix A) from the Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS). The purpose of the memo is to offer clarification on state policy. In summary, up to 9 hours can be double counted between undergraduate and graduate programs. All bachelor's + master's degree programs require 141 hours in total, at least 30 of these hours must be at the graduate level.

The questions from Graduate Council included:

To what degree can certificates count toward graduate degree?

If a student is working on a second master's degree, after a Ph.D., how many of those courses can be double-counted?

When does graduate education start?

What are the goals of the master's degree?

What are the competencies needed?

What is the job market expecting?

Do we need a better understanding about the difference between certificates vs. degrees?

Do we need catalog language clarifying that one cannot get a degree until you have been admitted?

Recognizing that the state definition is more lenient and the desire of undergraduate admissions to widen our early assurance pool, how would what we passed previously be hurt by state recommendation?

- Beth also announced that there will be OneDrive box for Graduate Council

4. Remarks by Assistant Dean of the Graduate College: Katie Tadlock

Katie introduced the “Combined Bach-Mast Degree Policy”

Graduate Council asked the following questions and Katie offered clarification.

- How is this policy different from the policy for honors students?

Some programs are applying senior for graduate credit more broadly than how it is written. This new approach would offer more flexibility and increased retention into the master’s program

- Who stands to benefit from this policy?

The benefit is to undergraduate recruitment.

- What is timeline?

Undergraduate admissions wants policy to take effect immediately.

- Who weighs in on this decision?

It was agreed that this must be reviewed by both Graduate Council and UCC.

The council agreed that in the section entitled Senior for Graduate Credit on page #3 “requires accumulative GPA of 2.5” needs to be changed to “requires accumulative GPA of 3.00”. Katie will revise based on the discussion.

Katie also asked the council’s perspective on conflict of interest. She asked:

- What constitutes a terminal degree?

Based on our current policies, a faculty member in a college cannot get a degree in their own college.

- What constitutes a conflict of interest?

- Do we need a different definitions for conflict of commitment and conflict of interest?

Katie stated that GRADS will offer new functionality and roll out training will be coming soon for new and advanced users. One functionality will include a waiver for those with OU degrees.

5. Committees

- Curriculum Bridge Committee
- Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships Committee
- Planning and Strategy Committee
- Policies and Regulations Committee
- Recruitment and Admission Requirements Committee

Gordon reviewed the responsibilities/roles of each committee.

- The Policies and Regulations committee reviews current policies and suggests updates as needed.
- Curriculum committee acts as a bridge committee with the UCC, it reviews new programs and changes to existing programs as well as seven year program reviews.
- The Recruitment and Admissions Requirements committee reviews issues pertaining to graduate admissions and conflict of interest cases for employees seeking graduate education.
- The Graduate Student Affairs and Fellowships committee reviews the nominees for named fellowships, Council of Graduate Schools and Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools dissertation and thesis awards.
- The Planning and Strategy committee covers broader issues pertaining to graduate education.

After some discussion about volume of committee work, Graduate Council split the Curriculum Bridge Committee in two, one committee to focus on Curriculum and the other to focus on Programs. In addition, the council decided to eliminate the Planning and Strategy Committee. The Planning and Strategy committee may be convened in an ad hoc capacity as needed.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

Does the “retaking a course” language in the Graduate Catalog need to be clarified? Is the difference between retaking, repeating and replacing clear as written in the catalog?

Council questions were:

Should we examine how this works in practice?

Could we review someone's DARS for more information?

The council agreed to discuss/review this item at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 P.M.

Appendix A

Recommendation re: 'Double-Counting'

TO: Dr. Bradley Duncan, Chair, Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS),
ODHE FROM: Dr. Cyndee Gruden (Associate Dean, College of Graduate Studies, U. of Toledo),
Dr.
Barry Milligan (Interim Dean, Graduate School, Wright State U.), Dr. Charles
Rozek (Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, Case Western Reserve U.),
Dr. Sal Sanders (Dean of Graduate Studies, Youngstown State U.), Dr.
Nigamanth Sridhar (Dean, College of Graduate Studies, Cleveland State U.)

DATE: 29 May 2018

SUBJECT: Recommendation re: "Double-Counting"

Because there has been some confusion regarding "double-counting" of credit toward combined bachelor's + master's degree programs, we submit the language below this paragraph with the request that it be put to an electronic vote for ratification by CCGS members as a recommendation to Dr. Stephanie McCann of ODHE. Please note that, by allowing only graduate-level credits to count toward the master's degree, the criteria here proposed would ensure consistently greater rigor of coursework at the master's level than is required by HLC's "Assumed Practices" (which allow up to half the credits counted toward a master's degree to be at the undergraduate level), even though the recommendation allows for slightly fewer "unique" hours than HLC's Assumed Practices indicate. The recommended criteria would thus be consistent with other sanctioned "double-counting" schemes such as College-Credit Plus, which likewise allow only higher-level credits to be counted toward lower-level degrees and not vice-versa.

All combined bachelor's + master's degree (4+1) programs must meet all of the following criteria:

- The program has been approved at all appropriate stages (e.g., department, college, and university curriculum committees, for both undergraduate and graduate curricula, + provost)
- Only exceptionally well-prepared students are admitted to the program (e.g., GPA \geq 3.2 for a number of undergraduate credit hours \geq 90).
- The total number of hours counted toward the master's degree \geq 30.
- All hours counted toward the master's degree are at the graduate level.
- The total number of unique hours required for the completed bachelor's + master's degree \geq 141 hours.