

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

February 6th, 2015, 2:00–4:00pm
Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union

Presiding: Michael C. Roberts

Members present: Mahasweta Banerjee, James Daugherty, Van Kelly, Brian Laird, Ahreum Maeng (*in place of Promothesh Chatterjee*), Mahbub Rashid, Scott Reinardy, Honglian Shi (*in place of John Stobaugh*), Dave Tell, Mike Werle, and Sara Wilson

Staff: Austin Fitts and Roberta Pokphanh

Guests: Mark Jakubauskas, Catherine Shenoy, and Dee Steinle

AGENDA

1. Announcements
 - Graduate Credit policy update
2. Review of minutes: December 12th, 2014
3. Program proposal review (4)
 - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*
 - a) New degree track:
 - Accelerated Professional Science Master's in Environmental Assessment (4+1 PSM)
 - School of Business*
 - b) Graduate Certificate: Pillars of Business
 - c) Graduate Certificate: Business Management & Leadership
 - d) Graduate Certificate: Finance
 - e) Online MBA (informational item)
 - School of Journalism*
 - f) Update to Master of Science in Digital Content Strategy (informational item):
 - Narrative, Curriculum Outline, and Fiscal Summary added to proposal
4. Policy review (2)
 - a) Good Academic Standing
 - b) Graduate Teaching Assistant Appointment Eligibility
5. Discussion

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1. Announcements made by the Dean of Graduate Studies
 - Dean Roberts opened the meeting at 2:05pm and provided information on the upcoming site visit by the Higher Learning Commission.

Dean Roberts shared some of the usual meeting procedures with the new Council members and gave an update on the proposed Graduate Credit policy draft in spring 2015.

2. Review of minutes: December 12th, 2014
 - Dean Roberts asked the Council to review the minutes from the December meeting. There were no comments or changes proposed.

Updated minutes are available on the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty website:
<http://www.graduate.ku.edu/executive-council-graduate-faculty>

3. Program proposal review

a) New degree track: Accelerated Professional Science Master's in Environmental Assessment

Dean Roberts introduced Dr. Jakubauskas and provided the Council with some information on the proposed program track. Dr. Jakubauskas continued with details on the need for the program and how the program will work, including the transition from undergraduate to graduate.

The Council inquired about the availability of core coursework and Dr. Jakubauskas indicated that this is a priority of the program and also discussed moving some of the courses online.

The Council unanimously moved to approve the proposed program.

b) Graduate Certificate: Pillars of Business;

c) Graduate Certificate: Business Management & Leadership;

d) Graduate Certificate: Finance; and

e) Online MBA (informational item)

Dean Roberts introduced Dr. Shenoy and Dee Steinle and began a discussion of the three certificates as well as the online MBA program coming in fall 2015. Dr. Shenoy provided the Council with an overview of the plan for each of these programs in the School of Business.

Dean Roberts inquired about the connection between the existing programs and the nature of stackable programs. Dr. Shenoy gave details on how students will move from one program to another, including an example of how a student will begin with the completion of a certificate and then be asked to apply for the MBA program.

Dr. Shenoy informed the Council that students will need to earn at least a 3.5 GPA in the Foundations certificate program before moving into the Pillars certificate. Dr. Shenoy also shared the overall scope of the project and addressed questions about faculty resources and course offerings.

The Council unanimously moved to approve all 3 proposed graduate certificate programs.

f) Master of Science in Digital Content Strategy (informational item)

Dean Roberts outlined the updates to the proposal documents required for the MS proposal that was approved by the Council on December 14th, 2014. Dean Roberts described the three documents added: narrative, curriculum outline, and fiscal summary.

Dean Roberts noted that this item is considered for informational purposes and welcomed any feedback. The Council has no questions or concerns with the added documents.

4. Policy review

a) Good Academic Standing

Dean Roberts and Assistant Dean Pokphanh provided some history on the need for a policy that addresses what it means to be in good academic standing. The Council made several suggestions regarding what is considered satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree and offered advice on how to organize the information in the policy statement.

Dean Roberts agreed to bring a revised draft of the policy to a later meeting.

b) Graduate Teaching Assistant Appointment Eligibility

Dean Roberts described a minor change in the proposed policy draft and the Council discussed several points in the policy.

The Council moved to approve the proposed policy revision.

5. Discussion

Dean Roberts raised discussion on many points, including the procedure for awarding Graduate Fellowships, whether programs conduct annual reviews of graduate students, and whether plagiarism checks for theses and dissertations should be conducted by the Graduate Division, department, program, or left to the discretion of the student's advisor and committee members.

Dean Roberts asked the Council for any comments on the draft version of the graduate student-directed Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and the development of graduate degree program metrics for the Provost's Office.

Dean Roberts adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Austin Fitts