

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

October 24th, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00pm
CLAS Conference Room, 210 Strong Hall

Presiding: Michael C. Roberts

Members present: Monica Biernat, Aaron Clopton, James Daugherty, Van Kelly, Brian Laird,
Tien-Tsung Lee (*in place of Scott Reinardy*), Sandra Olsen (*in place of Ben Chappell*), Mahbub Rashid,
Honglian Shi, and John Staniunas

Staff: Austin Fitts and Roberta Pokphanh

Guests: Mark Jakubauskas, Clarence Lang, and Luis Gonzalez

AGENDA

1. Announcements
 - a) Policy update: Graduate Credit
 - b) Calendar update: moving January meeting to February 6th
 - c) DGS Conversations Series: Preparing Students for Non-Academic Careers
2. Review of minutes: September 26th, 2014
3. Program proposal review
 - a) Graduate Certificate program: Environmental Assessment (CLAS)
 - b) Graduate Certificate program: American Studies (CLAS)
4. Policy review:
 - a) Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition Exemption: Geography
4. Discussion
 - a) Sexual Harassment
 - b) Data and Metrics

-
1. Announcements made by the Dean of Graduate Studies
Dean Roberts opened the meeting at 2:01pm and announced the changes to the Council membership, a meeting date change, and introduced the proposal representatives attending the meeting. Dean Roberts discussed the current feedback on the proposed changes to the policy on Graduate Credit and the upcoming DGS Conversation Series topic before moving the Council to review of the minutes.
 2. Review of minutes: September 26th, 2014
Dean Roberts asked the Council to review the minutes from the September meeting. There were no changes and the motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

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) Graduate Certificate program: Environmental Assessment
Dean Roberts reviewed the questions presented in advance to Dr. Jakubauskas. The Council asked about the curriculum and the enrollment requirements and Dr. Jakubauskas provided information on the program's current requirements and discussed how the program's content is relevant to students outside of environmental science.

The Council inquired about what student population the program targets and Dr. Jakubauskas provided details on three targeted student groups. After further discussion, the Council moved to approve the certificate program.

b) Graduate Certificate program: American Studies

Dean Roberts discussed the title of the certificate program and Dr. Lang provided details on the creation of the program and details on the other programs related to American Studies. The Council inquired about directing the certificate program toward doctoral students only. Austin Fitts agreed to work with the department to modify the proposal to include master's level students.

The Council moved to approve the certificate program with the caveat that the proposal document include all Graduate students.

4. Policy review

Dean Roberts gave the Council some background on the proposal to add Geology to the exclusions section of the Master's Oral Exam Committee Composition policy. Dean Roberts indicated the specific titles identified that would qualify for chairing master's committees. The Council inquired about the review process for research faculty and Dr. Gonzalez informed the Council that the review process is similar to the department's process for reviewing tenure-track, teaching faculty. Dr. Gonzalez also gave information on how this helps their department compete with similar departments at other institutions.

The Council discussed the faculty positions in question at length, including Associate Specialists and Assistant Research Scientist and approved the exemption to allow research faculty in Geology to chair master's student committees.

5. Discussion

a) Dean Roberts raised discussion about the current KU campaign for awareness of sexual harassment and asked the Council about the value of including Graduate students more directly. The Council discussed the topic and recommended notifying all Graduate students of the current policies.

b) Dean Roberts discussed data in relation to program review and program success, and the Council briefly provided feedback.

Dean Roberts adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Austin Fitts