

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

November 22nd, 2:00 – 4:00pm
CLAS Conference Room, 210 Strong Hall

Presiding: Thomas Heilke

Members present: Promothesh Chatterjee, Aaron Clopton, Victor Frost, Steve Kapp, Brian Laird, Tien-Tsung Lee, Mahbub Rashid, Honglian Shi (in place of John Stobaugh), and John Staniunas

Guests: Johannes Feddema, Renee Perelmutter, Dee Steinle, and John Symons

Staff: Austin Fitts and Roberta Pokphanh

AGENDA

1. Announcements
2. Review of minutes: October 25th, 2013 meeting
3. Program proposals:
 - a) Foreign Affairs Studies (FASt) concentration within the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.
 - b) Graduate certificate: Foundations of Business
 - c) Fast-track master's degree in Philosophy
 - d) Doctoral program in Atmospheric Science
 - e) Online program proposal summary (*document*)
4. Policy Review:
 - a) Graduate Student Oral Exam Committee Composition
 - b) English Proficiency
 - c) Admission to Graduate Study
 - d) Permit to Re-enroll

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1. Announcements made by the Dean of Graduate Studies:

Dean Heilke opened the meeting at 2:02pm. He welcomed the Council members and the visitors representing the four program proposals. After brief introductions, Dean Heilke outlined the meeting agenda.

2. Review of minutes: October meeting

Professor Kapp moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 25th, 2013, seconded by Professor Rashid. The motion carried unanimously.

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

3. Program Proposals:

- a) Foreign Affairs Studies (FASt) concentration within the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Professor Frost inquired about concentrations appearing on the transcript. Dean Heilke responded that the concentration appears on the transcript, but not on the diploma. The Council discussed the definition of a track versus a concentration. Dean Heilke indicated that this proposal item does not go to the Kansas Board of Regents.

Professor Laird moved to approve the new concentration, seconded by Professor Staniunas. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Graduate certificate: Foundations of Business

Professor Kapp moved to approve the certificate program, seconded by Professor Clopton. The motion carried unanimously.

c) Fast-track master's degree in Philosophy

Dr. Symons explained the "4+1" fast-track degree. He indicated that the current proposal is the first of its kind at KU and will serve as a model for others. Dr. Symons explained that attracting students to a subsequent degree program will not always be the purpose of fast-track degrees. Rather, the purpose of these programs is for students with extraordinary ability to graduate more quickly.

Professor Laird inquired about whether the degree mostly consists of coursework. Dr. Symons responded that there is also an exam. Professor Frost discussed how the fast-track works at the undergraduate level.

Professor Rashid asked about GTA assistantships and Dr. Symons informed the Council that the coursework required in the proposal is too intensive to hold such a position. Professor Laird raised a point about ensuring students maintain a 3.5 GPA. Assistant Dean Pokphanh provided details on what is available for monitoring GPA.

Professor Frost moved to approve the program, seconded by Professor Chatterjee. The motion carried unanimously.

d) Doctoral program in Atmospheric Science

Dr. Feddema opened the discussion by describing the demand for the program at KU, based on an informal survey. Dr. Feddema described GTA funding in the Atmospheric Science program and indicated that no additional funding is needed for this proposed program. Dean Heilke asked about other programs located in the region and Dr. Feddema provided details to the Council.

Professor Laird discussed the background of potential students and asked that the proposal document clarify details about students' prior experience. Austin Fitts offered to contact Dr. Feddema regarding these changes to the proposal document. The Council discussed the possibility of future collaborative efforts for faculty, including faculty in the Department of Chemistry.

Professor Kapp moved to approve the program with a caveat, seconded by Professor Chatterjee. The motion carried unanimously. Graduate Studies agreed to follow-up with the Department of Geology before sending the proposal forward.

e) Online program proposal summary (*document*)

Dean Heilke described the new version of the form and added that the form can be adapted, based on the future needs of the university. Professor Clopton moved to approve the online program proposal summary form, seconded by Professor Kapp. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Policy Review

a) Graduate Student Oral Exam Committee Composition

Dean Heilke discussed the statement added by Graduate Studies. Dean Heilke indicated that he would only like feedback at this time and that he would bring the policy back at a later date.

b) English Proficiency

Dean Heilke explained the proposed changes and indicated they were supported by the Provost's Office. Professor Laird asked for clarification within the section in the policy where English-speaking countries are listed and the Council discussed several details about this section. The Council further discussed unique cases and reasons for having students check in at the Applied English Center.

Professor Staniunas moved to approve the policy, seconded by Professor Kapp. The motion carried unanimously.

c) Admission to Graduate Study

Dean Heilke gave the Council information on the proposed changes. The Council discussed details about the term "life experience" used in the policy draft.

Professor Chatterjee moved to approve the policy, seconded by Professor Laird. The motion carried unanimously.

d) Permit to Re-enroll

Dean Heilke introduced the new policy draft and Assistant Dean Pokphanh informed the Council that stakeholder review is currently ongoing. Assistant Dean Pokphanh also indicated that the permit to re-enroll form is currently limited to 5 years, and the proposed policy reduces this to one year. Professor Frost asked to add a reference the Leave of Absence policy and Austin Fitts agreed.

Dean Heilke thanked the Council for its hard work and adjourned the meeting at 3:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Austin Fitts