

Executive Council of Graduate Faculty

October 25th, 2:00 – 4:00pm
CLAS Conference Room, 210 Strong Hall

Presiding: Thomas Heilke

Members present: Jane Aldrich (in place of John Stobaugh), Ben Chappell, Promothesh Chatterjee, Aaron Clopton, James Daugherty, David Ekerdt, Victor Frost, Steve Kapp, Van Kelly, Brian Laird, Mahbub Rashid, John Staniunas, Thomas Volek (in place of Tien-Tsung Lee), and Mike Werle

Guests: Shawn Alexander, Renee Perelmutter, and Megan Greene

Staff: Austin Fitts and Roberta Pokphanh

AGENDA

1. Announcements
2. Review of minutes: September 6, 2013 meeting
3. Program proposals:
 - a) Graduate certificate renewal in African Studies
 - b) Graduate certificate in the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
 - c) Master's program in the Center for East Asian Studies
 - d) Online program proposal summary (*document*)
4. Policy Review:
 - a) Graduate Certificate Admission and Eligibility
 - b) Graduate Student Oral Exam Committee Composition

-
1. Announcements made by the Dean of Graduate Studies:

Dean Heilke opened the meeting at 2:02pm and welcomed members substituting on the Council as well as the visitors representing program proposals. After a few brief introductions, Dean Heilke outlined the meeting agenda.

2. Review of minutes: September meeting

Professor Kapp moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 6th, 2013, seconded by Professor Laird. 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) Graduate certificate renewal in African Studies

Professor Volek inquired about any issues with the program and Dr. Alexander assured the Council that there have been no issues. Professor Volek moved to approve the

renewal of the program, seconded by Professor Clopton. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Graduate certificate in the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Professor Clopton asked about enrollment in the program and Dr. Perelmutter provided some details. Professor Staniunas asked about funding cuts related to title IV and Dr. Perelmutter indicated that those cuts will not affect the program. Professor Kelly moved to approve the program, seconded by Professor Chatterjee. The motion carried unanimously.

c) Master's program in the Center for East Asian Studies
Professor Frost inquired about funding resources and Dr. Greene indicated that funding was acquired through the Office of Graduate Military Programs. Professor Volek asked whether Foreign Area Officer (FAO) students are interested in the program and Dr. Greene confirmed that this student base is interested, as are students from other fields such as Business and those outside of academia.

Dean Heilke added that the time spent in a FAO program is accelerated by focusing on a particular concentration. Professor Ekerdt asked about the reduced timeline described in the proposal and Dr. Greene explained she was in contact with faculty regarding the timeline. Professor Rashid inquired about the existing master's program and if enrollment will be impacted by adding this new program. Dr. Greene responded that the program was notified, and that this is possible as some students show more interest in area studies. Professor Kelly pointed out the language electives in the proposal and Dr. Greene suggested that these electives have the potential to increase enrollment in language departments.

Professor Laird moved to approve the program, seconded by Professor Volek. The motion carried unanimously.

d) Online program proposal summary (*document*)
Dean Heilke introduced the proposal summary as an approval tool to help move existing programs online and made the case that online programs are different from existing, on-campus programs. Discussion ensued, with Professor Frost asking for clarification of, and consistency in the use of, terms like online and distance learning. The Council agreed to utilize the term distance learning to describe a method of synchronous delivery for materials that are the same as in an on-campus program, and online as a descriptor for courses that are not synchronous ("asynchronous") and tied to classroom instruction on campus.

Conversation continued with a discussion of assessment and the prevention of fraud or cheating in online courses. While no formal vote was taken, Council members appeared to concur that online program proposals, even if based on existing traditional programs, should be reviewed by the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty. Different fields of study at KU will approach the medium in different ways, and those varying approaches to the online medium encourage the need for formal faculty oversight.

Dean Heilke suggested that the approval form would be revised based on the feedback received and would be revisited at the Council meeting in November and the Council concurred.

4. Policy Review

a) Graduate Certificate Admission and Eligibility

Dean Heilke described the current revisions to this policy in light of conversations with the College Office of Graduate Affairs. Professor Laird offered his hesitation at giving students credit for both a degree and a certificate, and he presented an example at the undergraduate level in his department: how will programs be able to deny certificates to students who are degree-seeking, or actually graduating with a degree, and who have, in the course of that degree program, concurrently and as an accident of the program requirements, also satisfied the requirements for a certificate? Assistant Dean Pokphanh indicated that credit cannot be counted twice at the Graduate level, but that this question will need to be brought up with the Office of the University Registrar. Professor Chappell suggested that that this policy not be a place to address rigid issues in individual cases, but rather a place where simpler is better.

Dean Heilke proposed that the Council agree to review the policy at a later date and as need arises, but that the policy receive a vote, as written. Professor Frost moved to approve the policy, seconded by Professor Laird. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Graduate Student Oral Exam Committee Composition

Dean Heilke provided background on the exemption of Engineering Management in the current policy and how this policy has worked since its inception. Dean Heilke explained the reasons that small programs are struggling with the policy, which includes not having enough core faculty in tenure or tenure-track positions to cover committee assignments. Dean Heilke raised four core concerns surrounding this policy: capacity, academic quality, consistency, and the nature of the degree being granted.

Professor Chappell pointed out that there are no academic concerns with having courtesy faculty serve on committees, and that budget lines are not a good way for indicating who is or is not qualified to serve on a student's committee. He suggested considering faculty with courtesy appointments in a department as being committee members from that department for purposes of constituting the various kinds of graduate examination committees.

Professor Frost presented quality concerns with having a majority of the committee members that are not tenured/tenure-track members of the department offering the degree. Dean Heilke voiced his interest in continuing to have the committee's outside member be a tenured/tenure-track faculty member in order to protect the graduate student.

Assistant Dean Pokphanh asked the Council to consider whether master's degrees are different from doctoral degrees with respect to committee composition. Professor Daugherty responded that both degree levels should be considered the same in regard to this question.

Dean Heilke suggested reviewing this policy further at a later date, after GS staff have gathered information about courtesy faculty appointments at the university and other questions of practice raised by Council members.

Dean Heilke thanked the Council for its hard work and adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Austin Fitts