

May 5, 2015

Graduate Policy Committee

2014-2015 Annual Report

As in past years, the graduate policy committee conducted work in three main areas this year: (1) the review of graduate programs across campus, (2) the consideration of new graduate program proposals, and (3) the discussion of graduate academic policies that affect university-wide programs.

(1): Twelve graduate programs were reviewed by the GPC in 2014/2015: Economics, Public Health, Sociology/Demography, Public Administration, Political Science, Marketing, MIS/ Strategy (ESIS), Management, Risk Management, MBA, Accounting, and Finance.

(2): Seven proposals to explore new programs or implement programs were approved. The MS in Law Enforcement Intelligence and an LLM in Business Law were approved for exploration. Programs in Applied Economics, Risk Management and Physician Studies were approved. Online Master's programs in Applied American Politics and Policies and Curriculum and Instruction were approved.

(3): The GPC discussed a number of policy issues related to graduate programs. Some of the significant issues discussed included:

A. The GPC approved a College of Business request to be allowed to waive GRE or GMAT admissions requirements for applicants meeting a set of criteria including extensive management experience.

B. Due to the development of a new graduate student tracking system, the GPC reviewed teaching standards for TAs. It was decided to reduce the number of levels from seven to four. Levels 1 and 2 are for TAs who are not instructors of record. Level 2 has a greater degree of interaction with students. Levels 3 and 4 are for TAs who are instructors of record. Level 3 instructors are teaching 1000 and 2000 level while level 4 is for upper-level classes. Level 1 and 2 must attend the first day of PIE training. Levels 3 and 4 must attend 2 days of PIE. Level 4 TAs require a Master's degree or at least 30 graduate coursework in the teaching discipline. The proposal was approved by the Faculty Senate.

C. The GPC discussed a number of technical adjustments to the Graduate Bulletin. Clarification of the requirements for Master's theses and defenses were added to more closely mirror the doctoral defense. Language concerning statistical proficiency determination by the Department of Statistics was removed as no department has requested this determination in many years. Departments are doing their own determination of their students' proficiency. The motion for these changes was passed.

D. The GPC reviewed the doctoral residency requirement. The requirements of other institutions were studied. The Committee developed the concept of academic engagement to replace the residency requirement. Academic engagement requires students to be actively engaged in academic pursuits which may not be on campus. After extensive discussion of the GPC and members of the Steering Committee, a proposal was passed and sent to the Faculty Senate. The proposal was tabled by the Senate.

E. The GPC discussed the question of whether 4000 level classes should be counted toward graduate coursework and the requirements for graduate hours for Master's students. 30 hours are required for thesis programs and 32 for non-thesis programs. Based on the view that a graduate degree should be based on graduate coursework, the Committee considered whether 1 or 2 4000 level classes could be counted toward the hour requirement. Another issue was whether 4000 level courses should be included in graduate GPAs. The Committee passed a motion that would allow two 4000 level classes that would not be included in the graduate GPA. Senate President Tyson requested that the GPC examine how many students would be impacted by the changes. After the review, the GPC sent the proposal to the Faculty Senate to be reviewed this Fall.

F. The GPC passed a policy clarifying provisional graduate student requirements. The proposal will be presented to the Senate this Fall.

For the GPC,

Lee P. Stepina