Meeting Minutes (Approved)
Graduate Academic Advisory Committee
November 15, 2010
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Voting Members Present: Ken Abramowicz (Chair), Lara Dehn, Regine Hock, Orion Lawlor, Sue Renes, Jen Schmidt, Amber Thomas (phone), Xiong Zhang (phone).

Ex-Officio Members Present: Laura Bender, Anita Hughes, Lillian Anderson-Misel.
Also present: Jayne Harvie (note-taking)

The revised October 25 meeting minutes were approved.

The proposed agenda was approved with a change of order to accommodate discussion on the +/- grading policy resolution.

Backup meeting dates of November 29 and December 13 were adopted by the committee. (Time: 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Location: 341 Rasmuson Library)

Discussion of the resolution on the +/- grading policy issues:
Orion introduced the resolution addressing the +/- grading policy and the “B” minimum grade guidelines (needed for graduate students to pass courses and for their Advancement to Candidacy). The resolution recommended that instructors not give grades of C- (for undergraduate students) or B- (for graduate students).

Regine commented on the double standard of this current system. She gives +/- grades in her classes, while Lara noted she did not. A student passing Lara’s course might not pass Regine’s course with the same grade percentage because of the +/- effect.

Laura B. reiterated that it’s the overall GPA of 3.0 which is needed to graduate and for advancement to candidacy. Amber commented on the need to clarify the language of the policy.

The committee supported the idea of a full senate discussion. Ken noted that the resolution contradicts current policy passed by the Faculty Senate. No action was taken on the resolution and further discussion was postponed for the next meeting.

Curriculum Process:
Ken proposed that the committee review the very straightforward course proposals (such as #97) via email, using a negative confirmation process. The lead and readers will email among themselves to discuss concerns, and then email Ken if something should be held for further group discussion. If no comments are received, then these straightforward proposals will be automatically approved.

It was hoped that the following courses would be discussed via email if needed.
• 1-GCCh. – BIOL F618/F418 (cross-listed with Geography): The course was OK with Jen, but Xiong hadn’t reviewed it recently. With Donie absent, Ken asked for comments to be sent via email.
• 3-GPCh. – Certificate of Completion for the Post-Baccalaureate K-12 Special Education Licensure Program. Regine OK’d it; Ken to review it further.
• 4-GPCh. – Program Change to the Master’s in Education. Regine OK’d it; Ken to review it further.

Proposals Approved:
The following courses/programs were approved by the committee:

• 2-GCCh. – PHYS F645
• 15-GPCh. – K-12 Art Licensure Program
• 17-GNC – FISH F628 (with minor changes)
• 20-GCDr. – MSL F611
• 21-GCDr. – MSL F616
• 23-GCDr. – MSL F617
• 97-GPCh. – MS Statistics

Proposals Needing Further Review:
The following courses/programs were held for further follow-up and review:

• 19-GNC - ATM F666 (Further committee review needed.)
• 24-GNC – FISH F631 (Further committee review needed.)
• 26-GCCh. – WLF F625 (Further committee review needed.)
• 36-GNC – EE F614 (To be returned to the faculty for major revision.)
• 37-GNC – EE F643 (Syllabus needs additional information.)

Assignments for Upcoming Proposals:
Committee members volunteered to take the lead or serve as readers on the course proposals through 43. Discussion of the 53 new course proposals from Construction Management will be delayed. Assignments for these 53 proposals will be determined later.

Lara D. volunteered as reader on 41, 42, and 43.
Orion volunteered as leader on 38, 39 and 40.
Regine volunteered as reader on 27, 28, 29, and 30; and as leader on 41, 42 and 43.
Jen volunteered as reader on 27, 28, 29 and 30 and as leader on 33 and 34.
Amber volunteered as leader on 31, 32 and 35.
Sue volunteered as reader on 31, 32 and 35.