GAAC Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2011
9:00-10:00 a.m.
408 Rasmuson Library (Kayak Room)

Voting members present: Ken Abramowicz (Chair), Donie Bret-Harte (phone), Lara Dehn, Orion Lawlor, Sue Renes, Amber Thomas (phone).

Ex officio members present: Larry Duffy, Laura Bender, Anita Hughes, Karen Jensen

Guests: Rainer Newberry; Jayne H. (note-taking)

1. The agenda was adopted with a revision to move item #7 (99-GCCh_BIOL F675/475) up with the item #5 discussion topic of stacked courses guidelines to solicit comments Rainer (since the course had already been reviewed by the Curricular Review Committee).

2. The minutes of the 1-24-2001 GAAC meeting were approved without modification.

3. It was noted that the following proposals were approved by email.
   • 31-GCCh_PSY F652 - Practicum Placement - Clinical I, change repeatability
   • 32-GCCh_PSY F653 - Practicum Placement - Clinical II, change repeatability
   • 35-GPCh_M.Ed. -Remove Reading and K-12 Reading Endorsement Specialization

4. Discussion topic: UAF Catalog statement on academic dismissal of graduate students

Laura noted that the UAF Catalog lists reasons that students may be academically dismissed from graduate programs, but that it’s not stated clearly that an academic dismissal is noted on the student’s transcript. Language was suggested for addition to the Catalog, along with clear language about the ramifications of an academic dismissal.

Ken suggested that along with the transcript statement about academic dismissal, that reasons for it also be included, particularly a reason such as exceeding the time limit for the degree program. This leaves less to guesswork on the part of those seeing such transcripts. Amber disagreed, noting that the reasons could be many and varied. Laura responded that it takes a lot of paperwork to actually do a dismissal, and the first two reasons are almost never used alone (exceeding maximum time limit, and not being registered for at least six credits). Ken asked committee members to share their comments with Laura via email and she could present a revised proposal in the future.

5. Discussion topic: suggested guidelines for stacked 400-600 level courses

Rainer Newberry brought suggested guidelines to the GAAC and shared the reasons that the Curriculum Review Committee would like to see some guidelines put into place. Particularly, the college and school curriculum councils would find guidelines helpful. Often courses proposed for stacking are either too rigorous at the graduate level for undergraduates, or not rigorous enough for the 600-level. Rainer noted the need for more truth in advertising for both levels of a stacked course.

Amber Thomas commented that more input should be gathered from department chairs first. Lara Dehn asked for more concrete examples of what is good or bad in terms of course submissions and syllabi for stacking. She also noted that financial cost was a factor for students
who take stacked courses, noting some may not be able to afford the graduate tuition. She asked about obtaining student feedback on stacked courses.

Orion noted that stacked courses are often a means of providing graduate level electives by different programs.

There was not a consensus about stacked course requirements in the group, but requiring a syllabus for each level of the 400/600 course was not opposed. Rainer was encouraged to have the Curricular Review Committee study this issue further before taking any action.

7. Preliminary discussion of review process for the 53 new courses proposed by Civil and Environmental Engineering

Ken commented that this group of courses appeared to be focused on providing continuing professional education, and this is the very definition of 500-level courses. The consensus of the committee was that these courses did not meet the requirements of 600-level courses. Ken will talk to Bob Perkins about the matter. Laura suggested using them for an undergraduate certificate. Orion suggested creating a Special Topics course at the 600-level for the graduate certificate program instead. It was questioned, however, whether the majority of a program should be comprised of Special Topics courses. The committee did not want to approve these as 600-level courses.

8. As the scheduled end of the meeting neared, it was noted that a March 1 deadline for catalog submissions has been established by the Office of the Registrar. Thus, the GAAC members agreed to hold another meeting on February 21 to maximize the number of proposals that could be approved before the catalog deadline.

9. Before the meeting was adjourned, a brief review of previously discussed courses was held.

• 18-GCCh_ATM F613 was approved.
• 36-GCCh_EE F614 was not approved because requested syllabus revisions were not made.
• 19-GNC_ATM F666 was discussed, but questions about the syllabus remained.
• 25-GNC_ATM F678 were discussed, but questions about the syllabus remained.
19-GNC, 25-GNC and the remaining proposals on the agenda that were not discussed will be placed on the agenda for the next GAAC meeting on February 21.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.