February 21, 2011 GAAC Meeting Minutes
9:00-10:00 a.m.
341 Rasmuson Library

Voting members present: Ken A. (Chair), Sue Renes, Lara Dehn (phone), Amber Thomas (phone), Jen Schmidt (phone), Orion Lawlor, Anupma Prakash

Ex officio members present: Larry Duffy, Laura Bender, Anita Hughes
Guest: Jayne H. (Notes)

1. Discussion/modification/approval of agenda

Ken noted that 98-GCCh_GEOG F612 – Geography of Climate and Environmental Change, listed under item 4 of the agenda, has become a trial course submission (#11-Trial) as a result of Curriculum Review Committee’s review of the course.

2. Discussion/approval of minutes from 2-14-2011 meeting

Minutes were approved.

3. Review of GAAC proposals already discussed once (review leader is listed first, followed by the secondary reviewers).

• 19-GNC_ATM F666 - Atmospheric Remote Sensing (Donie, Jen, Xiong)
  Ken noted there is confusion about the goals and outcomes for this course. Jen noted it’s not clear where the points for the course come from. Jen will email the instructor. Larry suggested cc’ing the chair, Nicole Molders.

• 25-GNC_ATM F678 - Mesoscale Dynamics (Xiong, Jen, Sue)
  Ken will follow up on this course. Some of the committee members felt the tone of the syllabus could be construed as condescending. Jen noted the grading table doesn’t align with the projects that are listed.

• 38-GNC_EE F646 Wireless Sensor Networks (Orion, Donie, Lara)
  Orion noted that the instructor is working on a revised syllabus. There was agreement that this one can not go forward in its current state. More detail is needed for the syllabus.

• 39-GNC_EE F668 Radar Systems (Orion, Donie, Lara)
  Orion noted some problems with the syllabus. While the course is similar to an existing Geoscience course, the material is a subset of that course. Ken noted if changes aren’t received, the instructor should be asked to re-submit this course for the spring review.

• 40-GNC_EE F675 Robot Modeling and Control (Orion, Donie, Lara)
  Orion has received some changes. Lara noted that there are no course policies included in the syllabus. Ken will put this on next week’s meeting agenda.

• 41-GPCh_Phd. - Fisheries Modify Admission Requirements (Amber, Lara, Jen)
  Amber noted there were no issues with this one. Lara agreed. While it was noted that the changes raised the bar to get into the program, this was seen as positive by the majority of the committee. Larry noted that students can still get in with faculty endorsements if they have not published papers. He mentioned the number one predictor of success in Ph.D. programs is undergraduate research. Approved.
• 42-GPCh_M.S. Fisheries - Expand elective course requirements (Amber, Lara, Jen)
  Amber noted this one consisted of straightforward changes to electives. Lara provided some
  background to the changes. The unit is adding a human dimension component to the electives as
  they have some Rasmuson Foundation funding. Approved.

• 43-GNC_FISH F680 - Marine Sustainability Internship (Amber, Lara, Jen)
  Amber said this one looks good. Lara was able to answer a question about the summer
  and fall parts of the course. It was approved.

MA in Political Science and related courses (see GAAC website for revised proposals and
supplemental syllabi for stacked courses used in proposed MA degree)
  Ken commented on the facts that a new dean will be coming to CLA in the near future,
  and the UA president has said there will be no new programs. These facts affect the timing of
  this proposed degree. How would TA-ships be divided between Northern Studies and Political
  Science since there wouldn’t be enough of them for two programs? Larry said he could ask the
  Provost for her ideas. There are quality concerns regarding the number of credits, all the main
  core courses of the degree are stacked, and the internship is not clear enough with regard to its
  outcomes. It was asked if UAA has a master’s in Political Science. The comment was made that
  this doesn’t need to be rushed; the issues should be fully dealt with.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 AM. The following items will carry over to the next meeting on
February 28.

• 27-GNP_Master of Arts in Political Science (revised proposal online) (Ken, Jen, Regine)

• 28-GNC_PS-622: Political Science Research Design and Methods (Ken, Jen, Regine)

• 29-GNC_PS-669: Arctic Politics and Governance (Ken, Jen, Regine)

• 30-GNC_PS-675: Internship in Public Affairs (revised proposal online) (Ken, Jen, Regine)

4. Review of new GAAC proposals

• 10-Tr_Trial Course: FISH F694 - Climate Change and Fisheries: Ecological and Evolutionary
  Responses (Ken, Lara)

• 99-GCCh_BIOL F675 / 475 - Vegetation Description and (Ken, Jen)

• 98-GCCh_GEOG F612 – Geography of Climate and Environmental Change (Jen, Ken)
  This course is now #11-Trial since the undergraduate review at Curriculum Review.