

GAAC: Graduate Academic Advisory Committee of the UAF Faculty Senate

2012-02-10 Meeting Minutes

Voting Members: Orion Lawlor, Susan Renes, Donie Bret-Harte, Elisabeth Nadin, Vincent Cee, Chung-Sang Ng

Non-Voting: Tim Bartholomaus, Laura Bender, Larry Duffy, Lillian Misel

Curriculum progress:

- The construction management 1-credit courses are withdrawn, pending updated syllabi.
- The program change in geophysics (5-GPCh) is fully approved, after the new math admission requirements were double checked.
- ED 682 (25-GNC) is approved, with updated 2012-02-09 syllabus.
- Program changes in the education post-baccalaureate and M.Ed. degrees (18-GPCh, 19-GPCh, and 20-GPCh) were approved.
- PETE/GEOS 608 (31-GNC) was approved.

The ad-hoc stacked course subgroup surveyed all UAF faculty listed as in Banner as teaching a stacked course. We sent a personal email plea to 82 instructors, and got back 44 responses. 52% of instructors reported differentiating between 400 and 600 level courses on a weekly basis; but over 90% differentiated between them at least once per month. Over 91% had differences in projects between levels, and 64% had differences in readings. Most stacked courses were stacked due to low enrollment in separate courses, and to expand the variety of electives offered. We still need to survey graduate students. GAAC members: what policy recommendations does this data suggest?

The graduate school has proposed a new Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) requirement: "All Graduate Students who are currently or have received NSF or NIH funding while at UAF are required to take a Responsible Conduct in Research course ([LAS601](#)) or an approved alternative."

Start Date: Students whose first enrollment is after 10/25/2012.

Rationale: RCR training is required by [42 CFR Parts 50 and 93](#) for NIH grants, and [Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act](#) for NSF grants.

Background: LAS601 (approved by [GAAC fall 2009](#)) is a two-credit course, and will be run every semester. Not a lecture course, this uses a case study review and discussion approach. Example issues: authorship disputes, ethical issues in mentoring, treatment of cell lines. Typically each meeting starts with a 15 minute introductory lecture, followed by a lively discussion between students. Students can either sign up for the course officially; or attend 10 total meetings, sign the attendance sheet, and participate in the discussion. Biology already requires a research design course, and scientific writing course, which may have some overlap with these topics, and could eventually be approved by the graduate college as an alternative.

Next meeting: Friday, February 24, 9am in the Kayak Room (Rasmuson 408).