

GAAC Minutes 9/16/13

Present: Donie Bret-Harte, Karen Jensen (ex-officio), Cheng-fu Chen, Wayne Marr, Franz Mueter, John Eichelberger (ex-officio), Jayne Harvie (ex-officio), Mike Daku, Kristina Chu (graduate student), Vince Cee, Laura Bender (ex-officio), Mike Earnest (ex-officio), Stacy Howdeshell (ex-officio), Amy Lovecraft, John Yarie

We reviewed GAAC's by-laws. This review raised two issues: 1) graduate students are non-voting members, though they do all of the work that the rest of the committee does. There was discussion of whether any other faculty senate committees have student members. Jayne Harvie did not think that they did. Mike Earnest pointed out that the student regent has voting rights. Graduate students have been voting informally on curriculum changes in the past several years. There was general sentiment that the situation should be clarified. The second issue was that for GAAC to offer advice on tax-related issues seems very odd, since GAAC members generally do not have that expertise. In addition, no tax-related issues have come to GAAC within the memory of those assembled today.

GAAC passed a motion (4 in favor, 1 nay, 1 abstention) to amend the by-laws to 1) give graduate student representatives voting rights and 2) remove the responsibility for consulting on tax-related issues.

Donie Bret-Harte was elected as Chair of GAAC for this year

GAAC reviewed two trial courses: Trial course #1 [COUN F694 - Ethnicity and Family Studies](#) was sent back for revisions. Vince Cee will follow up. Trial course #5 : [PHYS F694 - Core Skills for Computational Science](#) was passed pending correction of disabilities services phone number, and addition of student learning outcomes to the syllabus.

John Eichelberger and Laura Bender shared that the graduate school has several issues to bring before GAAC at the next meeting, regarding graduate students walking in commencement, credits for the University of the Arctic, etc. Details will be sent to GAAC members before the next meeting.

A Doodle poll will be conducted to set the time for the next meeting, as this time did not work well for many GAAC members.