Graduate Course and Program Review Committee
Minutes
April 24, 2019

Present: Chad Baker, Jason Baker, Jerrell Blaine, Richard Clark, Robyn Lily Davis, Oliver Dreon, Marc Felizzi, Leslie Gates, Laura Granruth, Claudia Haferkamp, Kelly Kuhns, T. Russell-Lorentz, Lucie Lehr, Richard Mehrenberg, Susanne Nimmrichter, Nicole Pfannenstiel, Beth Powers, Helena Tuleya-Payne, Scott Warner, Tyrone Washington, Charlton Wolfgang, Tiffany Wright, P. Yang

1. Review and Approval of Minutes:

2. Graduate Curriculum and Policy Proposals:
      i. New 15-credit/5 course graduate certificate program.
      ii. The program connects space weather science to those who communicate with the decisions makers.
      iii. A stand-alone program but may also serve as a fifth specialization.
      iv. Those in the program will be closer to the M.S. degree.
      v. EMGT 614 is required, the other 4 courses are new.
      vi. It was discussed if EMGT 614 would be over-enrolled.
      vii. Amendments suggested –
          1. Add “or permission from instructor” to all the courses
          2. Check the DL/online box.
          3. Add line “All faculty who teach online will have to have had some training in teaching online”.
      viii. Motion to accept this new academic program, four new courses (SWEN 671, 672, 673, and 674) and distance learning for each - S. Warner moved. C. Wolfgang 2nd. Approved as amended.
   b. MSEM Program Change – Communication Track New Minor –
      i. New courses proposed are COMM 625, 661, 627, 653 and 605.
      ii. Crisis communication is essential to emergency operations plans.
      iii. A new marriage between COMM and MSEM.
      iv. DL proposal submitted as well.
      v. Target audience is emergency managers, COMM students who go into the emergency management field and meteorology students.
      vi. It was discussed if there is overlap with SOWK content. Maybe tighten up the description for the emergency management audience.
      vii. A concern is students may take some of these courses instead of those in their program since descriptions are similar. Content duplication is fine to a certain point, but it matters how you build out its principals. These proposed course descriptions should better articulate this.
      viii. Stronger learning outcomes recommended.
      ix. Course number revision COMM 510 to COMM 610 for consistency with the 600 level courses.
   c. MED Revised Change in Curriculum: M.Ed. Language and Literacy (Reading Concentration/Reading Specialist Certification) Replace Course Requirement -
i. Change to a literacy related summer institute instead of the SPED 600 or 601 requirement (reading concentration or certification). Must be a literary topic.

ii. Allows for more choice for those with solid prep from undergrad.

iii. To offer teachers other options that align with research and new standards.

iv. It was pointed out summer institutes are not consistently offered.

v. This is a major, not minor, change.

vi. Suggested to not list specific institute courses on proposal as they may change.

vii. Grad course catalog should read “current appropriate literary course or summer institute as approved by advisor”.


i. Designed to help the secondary math teacher connect back to elementary content.

ii. Face-to-face. No DL.

iii. It is expected the student will have a secondary math education background.

iv. Maybe change title to include “…elem/middle/sec” or “preK-12” or just “Mathematics Curriculum Connections” so school districts more likely to reimburse costs.


3. Old Business:

a. MUsings is open for submissions until next November. N. Pfannenstiel will send the link to everyone.

4. New Business: Graduate Coordinators Survey-

a. C. Baker of Grad Admissions created the survey to collect information in order to determine areas of needed improvement.

b. Major issue is who should be recruiting – Grad Admissions or coordinators? Currently a structural issue due to lean Grad Admission staff.

c. The Grad Admissions Office is student employee heavy. Frequent turnover leads to frequent training of new employees which leads to higher error rate. As a first point of contact with prospective students this is troubling.

d. Application processes gets high marks for quick turnaround.

e. Grad numbers have had big impact on recent success of MU in PASSHE rankings.

f. Changes in demographics tell us we need to build up the graduate program.

g. Undergrad vs. Grad Admissions parity in staffing needs attention.

h. The conversation led to general disparity in graduate student funding.

i. A small group was created to map the issues; to paint a fuller picture on the current climate; to create a letter signed by the group for forwarding to the Provost’s Office or a Middle States working group. Members are: L. Gates, J. Baker, T. Wright, M. Felizzi, N. Pfannenstiel

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM by T. Wright
Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Lehr