GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 25, 2015


Not Present: Ty Aller, Tyler Broadbent, Johan Du Toit, Derek Hastings

Visitors: Craig Kelley, Elisa Hoffman, Nicholas Morrison, Ron Gillam

Call to Order, Welcome: Mark McLellan

Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2014: Approved

Dean’s Report

- **Information:** Graduate Program Funding 60/40 split with University of Utah. Funding will be divided between Graduate Assistant Support, the Library and Faculty Lines with an emphasis on research and PhD. Deans would be helpful in finding where the funds can be best used. The Provost will make decisions about filling faculty lines.

- **Graduate Programs Mid-Term Review Follow-up:** We would like each representative to give a 4 minute summary of their college’s report, and we will ask that a 2nd Council member read each college’s report (we will send out secondary assignments to each Council member). Please be prepared to make these reports at our next meeting.

- **Research Week:** Schedule is at rw.usu.edu

- **Commencement Information:** Joan Rudd: We have asked the Graduate Council to help with hooding.

- **Student-Advisor Expectation Checklist:** Richard Inouye: The form is not a mandatory form but it is recommended. It will help students and advisors to understand what expectations they should have of each other. The form can be found on our website under additional forms.

- **New Journal in STEM education research:** Louis created a new journal working with the library through digital commons.

Old Business

New Business

- **R401 Shingo Specialization Name Change** - Motion to discuss the R401 was made by Konrad Lee. 2nd Michelle Baker. This is a specialization for the MBA program. Updating the name to be branded with the Shingo name. **Vote in support: Unanimous**
• **Portfolio Committee Report** - Richard reported on the committee discussions and presented the committee’s proposal (appended). The proposal would require that the department write up a request including what would be required in a portfolio and how decisions would be made. Motion by Chris Terry to receive and consider the proposal, 2nd Abby Benninghoff. The college of business regularly waives test scores on the basis of experience in the field and could bring a proposal to the council for approval. With approval they wouldn’t have to submit a letter for every student any longer. Natural Resources also has students who have been out of school for an extensive period of time and for whom a portfolio of experience in the field may be a better indication of success than a test. The proposal would require information about whether peer institutions allow submission of a portfolio rather than a test score. There was a question about whether the eligibility for the Non-Resident Tuition Waiver for Excellence would hurt a departments funding. The proposal is attached below. **Vote in support: Unanimous**

• **Department of Art & Design: Portfolio proposal: Nick Morrison/Chris Terry** - Motion to approve the proposal from Art & Design by Chris Terry, 2nd Charles Waugh. This proposal from the Department of Art & Design would allow the department to use the portfolio option. Peer institutions do not require a test score. A portfolio is a better option to predict success in their department. Portfolios will be reviewed by the department’s graduate committee and by faculty in the target area. Applicants will submit 20 digital images in place of a test score. **Vote in support: Unanimous**

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Chris Terry. Adjourned
Proposal: Individual graduate degree programs may propose to the Graduate Council that applicants be allowed to submit a portfolio in place of a national test score as part of an application to the School of Graduate Studies. The proposal must:

1. Identify the graduate degree program that is asking for permission to allow applicants to submit a portfolio in place of a graduate entrance exam score.
2. Identify the nature and extent of the portfolio that would be considered an acceptable replacement for a graduate entrance exam (e.g., digital images, recordings, nature of experience in a discipline),
3. Indicate how the portfolio will be assessed (e.g., review by faculty),
4. Indicate whether similar graduate degree programs in our peer institutions, and aspirational peer institutions, allow applicants to submit a portfolio in place of results for a graduate entrance exam.

If the Graduate Council approves the proposal from a degree program, applicants to that graduate program may submit a portfolio in place of a score on a graduate entrance exam. Submission of a portfolio does not impact the existing requirement that applicants have an admissions GPA of 3.0.

Although a degree program may choose to allow an applicant to submit a portfolio in place of a graduate entrance exam score, eligibility for the Nonresident Tuition Waiver for Excellence will still require that a student submit test scores, and have an admission GPA, that are above the average for the college in which they are matriculated.