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Academic Policy Committee Report - April 7, 2016

Graduate Council

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ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 7, 2016, 2:00 – 3:30
Graduate School Conference Room (111 SSB)

Present: Eric Boder, Jeffrey Fairbrother (College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences), Stephanie Galloway, Stephen Kania, John Keny, Claudia Kirk, Dixie Thompson, Maria Stehle (Chair, APC)

Meeting was called to order by Maria Stehle at 2:00 p.m., Welcome.

John Keny, GSS President, selected to take the Minutes.

1. College of Veterinary Medicine: new Grading Scale Exception

At the Graduate Council Meeting of March 31, 2016, Dr. Claudia Kirk, from the College of Veterinary Medicine presented documentation and explained their grading scale is in compliance with their accrediting agency and it's the grading scale they've used for years. Dr. Kirk gave several examples that to change their grading scale would have adverse effects on their students. After discussion, their request to be exempt seemed appropriate. Dr. Albrecht proposed a sentence be added to the Graduate Catalog to indicate the Professional Schools of the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine be exempt from the revised graduate grading scale.

Per the discussion and approval from the Graduate Council meeting, Dr. Albrecht suggested the following edits to the catalog (blue font is revised/added text)

- Veterinary Medicine courses are letter grade only except where noted Satisfactory/No Credit only. [For more information about the grades used in Veterinary Medicine, contact the Office of the Dean.](#)
- Law courses are numeric except where noted otherwise. [For more information about the grades used in Law, contact the Office of the Dean.](#)

Grades in graduate study have the following meanings. [Exemptions include the College of Law and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Contact the Offices of the Dean in Colleges of Law and Veterinary Medicine for more information regarding the grades used in these professional schools.](#)

2. A proposal was submitted by Jens Gregor. The proposal is requesting to allow graduate students to retake courses for the purpose of raising the grade. I would like the following proposal be considered by the Academic Policy Committee in time for a vote by the Graduate Council before the end of the semester.

Proposal: No graduate student may repeat a course for the purpose of raising a PASSING grade already received.

Current catalog text: No graduate student may repeat a course for the purpose of raising a grade already received.

From our discussion, there was a consensus to bring this proposal up for discussion at the next Graduate Council meeting to get additional input and to see the policy from other graduate schools. At the Graduate Council meeting on March 31, 2016, we heard that veterinary medicine circumvents this policy by giving their students an incomplete until they

pass a course. Programs that have required courses, such as computer science, must either do something similar, bend their own rules, or dismiss students when they fail such courses regardless of the circumstances. This is neither satisfactory to anybody nor good policy.

3. The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures has a question about theses being written in a language other than English. The current policy allows for this with a written request by the thesis committee, with endorsement by the department head and dean of the college, prior to submission of the Admission to Candidacy application.

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures would like to add a paragraph in their section of the Graduate Catalog that would allow for abbreviated approval.

4. Priorities: getting organized for next academic year. What items might be coming forward?
 - a) Dr. Thompson sent a survey out to the campus community.
 - i. A task force will be established to work with the data.
 - ii. The survey closes on May 1.
 - b) Look at reorganizing the Graduate Catalog.
 - i. Ensure that statements don't conflict
 - ii. This may result in policy changes.
5. New Business
 - a. Students being allowed to apply to multiple programs. Currently students may only apply to one program at a time.
 - b. Graduation Fees
 - i. Students have to pay every time that they apply to graduate.
 - ii. Where does this money go to?

Dr. Stehle reported she will be taking leave spring 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.