**Graduate Council Meeting**

**April 22, 2016**

**109D DEV**

**Approved 9/2/16**

**Faculty Present:**  D. Balfour, J. Barry, A. Booth, A. Bostrom, A. Campbell, S. Choudhuri, D. Eick, M. Harris, L. Huang, F. Kraft, C. Leiras, V. Long, B. Martin, D. Mitchell, P. Ratliff-Miller, G. Schymik, M. Staves, M. VanderKooi, S. Wu

**Administrative Ex-Officio Present:** B. Cole, I. Fountain, T. James-Heer, S. Lipnicki, M. Luttenton, J. Potteiger, S. Soman

**Elected Students Present:** A. DePree

**Ex-Officio Students Present**: J. Lawton, B. Showerman

**GSA Officers Present:** C. Cascarilla, F.Lawrence

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| **AGENDA ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION/DECISION** |
| **I. Call to Order** | C. Leiras called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. |  |
| **II. Approval of Agenda** |  | **Motion:** P. Ratliff Miller moved to approve the agenda. V. Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **III. Approval of Minutes March 25, 2016** |  | **Motion:** A. Booth moved to approve the minutes of March 25, 2016. M. Staves seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **IV. Chair’s Report – C. Leiras** | ECS/UAS approved three graduate policies at the last meeting: Two or More Graduate Degrees at the Same Level, Combined Bachelor-Graduate Degree Programs, and Combined Graduate-Graduate Degree Programs.   The New Programs Council is reviewing a new program proposal for a master’s degree in athletic training.  The Graduate Council Annual Report was reviewed and the final document will be submitted to ECS. Some charges are ongoing and will continue to be part of the 2016-17 charges to the Graduate Council. | **Motion:** M. Staves moved to approve the Graduate Council Annual Report. A. Booth seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **V. Curriculum Subcommittee Report – M. Staves** | Review of the SLP courses is finished. The GC-CC will meet next Friday, April 29, to review the remaining proposals in the queue, and may also meet in the summer if necessary. |  |
| **VI. Policy Subcommittee Report – A. Booth** | A. Booth thanked the GC-PC for their work. The GC-PC completed its work at the last meeting and discussed potential future policies for the 2016-17 academic year. The GC-PC will not meet in summer. |  |
| **VII. GSA Report – F. Lawrence** | The GSA held a transitions meeting with the current and new e-board. They reviewed goals for next year and accomplishments this year. The new e-board met on its own on April 21. The GSA will be presenting awards to faculty at the Graduate Student Celebration this evening.  C. Leiras thanked GSA members for their work and presence at the Graduate Council and subcommittee meetings this year. |  |
| **VIII. Dean’s Report – J. Potteiger** | Graduate Academic Policy on Projects, Thesis, and Dissertation Credits The policy was expanded to be inclusive of research projects. There was discussion in the GC-PC about a credit hour definition for research projects so the policy was submitted with the definition that graduate research would entail 5-7 hours of student work per credit.  The policy was approved up to Provost level, but the UCC had recently approved standard credit hour definitions that conflicted with the definition set forth in this policy. The UCC document defined the research category at 3-6 credits. This range encompasses both undergraduate and graduate research.  In order for the policy on projects thesis, and dissertation credits to be approved at Provost level and put into effect, J. Potteiger asked the Graduate Council to consider accepting the 3-6 hour range. This would be followed with a plan to revisit the credit hour definitions in AY 2016-17 with the GC-PC, UAS, and UCC to look at distinctions between graduate and undergraduate research. GC members noted that 3-6 or 5-7 hours per week is not a cap but a guideline, and could be looked at as a minimum requirement.  Graduate Council as a Standing Committee of UAS The Graduate Council and UCC are both standing committees of UAS and report directly to ECS/UAS. This reporting structure should allow Graduate Council policies to go directly to ECS/UAS for review and approval. The Graduate Council would like to pursue a change to the current practice of UCC reviewing the Graduate Council’s work in curriculum review in AY 2016-17.  Update on The Graduate School Activities The Graduate School Strategic Plan is complete and it aligns with the University Strategic Plan.  President Haas and Provost Davis has requested a report on potential new graduate programs that GVSU could offer. There is a desire to increase graduate enrollment to approximately 20% of the institution. J. Potteiger has created a Graduate Education Planning Group to work on this charge. J. Potteiger will make recommendations for new programs but also recommend changes to existing programs to increase enrollment.  Graduate advising is an ongoing effort, and there are efforts to make improvements on making international students feel welcome.  MAGS 3-Minute Thesis Competition Biology graduate student M. Lindenberg won the GVSU 3-Minute Thesis Competition. He competed in the MAGS 3-MT competition in Chicago on April 9 along with 21 other participants. He did well but did not place in the finals. | **Motion:** A. Bostrom moved to accept the policy change to 3-6 clock hours per week of work for research to align with the UCC definitions. V. Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously. |
| **IX. Old/New Business** | Graduate Council Officer Elections  Election results were as follows: Andrew Booth – Chair, Andrea Bostrom – Vice Chair, Mark Staves – GC-CC Chair, Andrew Booth – GC-PC Chair.  Appreciation  C. Leiras thanked the Graduate Council for assisting with her transition to the Graduate Council Chair position in the Winter 2016 semester. GC members offered her thanks for a job well done.  J. Potteiger thanked the Graduate Council members for their service and leadership to graduate education. |  |
| **X. Adjournment** | The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:30 AM. |  |