

Graduate Council 2009-2010 Annual Report

Prepared by: Mark Luttenton, Chair

Graduate Council Faculty and Administrative Members: C. Bajema (ex-officio), W. Boeve (CHP), S. Borders (CCPS), A. Bostrom (KCN), D. Cannon (SCB, Graduate Council Vice-Chair), M. Cimitile (ex-officio), B. Cole (ex-officio), N. Diarrassouba (COE), I. Fountain (administrative), T. James-Heer (ex-officio), P. Jorgensen (PCEC), S. Lipnicki (ex-officio), M. Luttenton (CLAS, Graduate Council Chair), V. Long (UL, Chair of Grand Council Policy Subcommittee), A. Lowen (SCB), J. Montag (ex-officio), R. Smith-Colton (CCPS), M. Staves (CLAS, Chair of Graduate Council Curriculum Subcommittee), J. Stevenson (ex-officio), R. Wilson (COE)

Graduate Council Student Members: A. Crosby, C. Torri

Ex-Officio Students Present: M. Soltis,

The Graduate Council (GC) convened on September 4, 2009 and met monthly during fall and winter semesters. The GC will conclude business on April 23, 2010. Because the GC addresses policy issues and reviews graduate curriculum proposals, the members of the GC not only serve on the GC, but also serve on either the Graduate Council Curriculum Subcommittee (GC-CC, Mark Staves, Chairperson) or the Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee (GCPSC, Valeria Long, Chairperson). Consequently, the GC is in the unique position of reviewing graduate curriculum actions and reviewing, refining, and proposing graduate policy. Because curriculum proposals often generate questions/issues related to graduate program policy (e.g. COE on-line program proposal), this continues to be a functional model. The GC-CC and GCPSC generally met twice each month in addition to regular GC meetings. Both subcommittees have committed significant time and effort during the 2009-10 academic year. The GC-CC reviewed over 95 curriculum proposals including the COE on-line program, CHP reorganization and the proposed MA in Critical Studies (COE). The GCPSC proposed/revised several policies and spent considerable time researching standards to develop new or revise existing policies. All discussions were conducted in the context of the GVSU Strategic Plan.

The GC received from the ECS a memo directing GC action for the 2009-2010 academic year. The GC was charged with three primary tasks in that communication including:

1. Propose policy and procedural revisions to the language in the Faculty Handbook to promote uniformity and consistency among graduate programs throughout the university.
2. Continue working with the UCC for consideration of the formation and introduction of a graduate level university curriculum committee.
3. After completing the development of policies regarding qualification standards for faculty who teach graduate courses, including both training and records of scholarly or creative activity and submit these policies to the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee and support their work in proposing any necessary revision to the Faculty Handbook's personnel policies regarding faculty review for renewal, tenure and promotion that would be necessitated by these proposed graduate faculty policy revisions.

Charge 1: The GCPSC has reviewed numerous policies that influence uniformity and consistency across graduate programs. Several issues including Graduate Admission Categories and Dual Degree Requirements are completed. Discussion and work on several other policies (either revisions or new policy) has been ongoing since fall 2009 including guidelines for preparation of thesis, dissertations and doctoral research projects, graduate degree audits and developing a graduate student community.

Charge 2: Graduate Council worked on developing guidelines policies to establish a university graduate curriculum committee. After reconsideration, it does not seem prudent to separate graduate curriculum and policy aspects at this time.

Charge 3: During fall 2009, Graduate Council distributed to ECS and FPPC a draft policy regarding qualifications and standards for faculty engaged in graduate education. Subsequently, the revised draft was forwarded to the college deans early winter 2010. The revised policy has now been approved by GC and will be forwarded to the Chair of ECS for consideration during fall 2010.