

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
GRADUATE FACULTY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes
August 30, 2019

Immediately following Faculty Assembly

Kinard 018

Dr. Dave Pretty called the meeting to order. He thanked Dr. Margaret Gillikin for agreeing to be secretary and Dr. Hye-Sung Kim for agreeing to be parliamentarian for this year. A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 1, 2019, motion was seconded, and minutes were approved as presented.

I. Report from CAS Committees

Dr. Dave Pretty presented the report from the Curriculum Committee and the following course modifications were approved:

- i. Modify course: BIOL 517, Human Genetics
Changes courses prereqs to ensure students are prepared for the course.
- ii. Modify course: BIOL 526, Applied Microbiology
Updates course materials and applications to incorporate a higher percentage of laboratory and experiential learning.
- iii. Modify course: NUTR 520, Sports Nutrition
Updated pre-requisites as a consequence of the biology course changes.

Two new courses were proposed but not approved due to confusion about the creation of 500 level courses that are restricted to graduate level. At the CAS Faculty Assembly similar courses were approved at the 300 level for undergraduates. No representative from the Mass Communication department was present to address these questions. A motion was made to postpone voting on MCOM 502 and MCOM 504 until clarification can be attained. The motion passed.

- i. New course: MCOM 502, International Communication
Examination of the flow of information throughout the world
To supplement Graduate School offerings
- ii. New course: MCOM 504, Intercultural Communication
Examination of the similarities and differences of cultures throughout the world.
To supplement Graduate School offerings

The following new course was approved:

New course: MATH 544, Regression Modeling

1. The focus of this course is on a careful understanding and presentation of regression models and associated methods of statistical inference, data analysis, interpretation of results, statistical computation, and model building.

The following program modification was approved.

Modify program: MA-ENGL

1. Removing thesis option

II. Dr. M. Gregory Oakes presented the Graduate Director's Remarks

1. Enrollment Data: Jack DeRochi presented current enrollment data at Faculty Conference, and Dr. Oakes highlighted that overall graduate enrollment is up. One reason for this is the success of the online Master in Social Work program. Full-time graduate enrollment numbers are declining but part-time enrollment is increasing with students taking an average of 6 hours per semester. For the university as a whole enrollment is up 15.8%, and within the College of Arts and Sciences enrollment is up 17.4%.

Our online platform for the MSW program is through Wiley and Son. Dr. Oakes reported that has been very pleased with their service and the handling of issues. This is a revenue sharing program; therefore, all of the revenue does not come to Winthrop. Wiley and Son receives a portion for their work in helping to develop the program. This has made it easier to get this program off the ground and has saved our faculty and staff a significant amount of work. Dr. Wanda Koszewski asked a question about whether Winthrop's share of the revenue goes back to the department that hosts the program. Dean Takita Sumter added that when Winthrop decided to take on this program, an allocation was set aside for set-up. The Wiley split changes each year and at this point CAS is receiving 45%. The change year to year is because our needs from Wiley change. Dr. Koszewski asked where money will come from if new faculty are needed. Dean Sumter replied that it would come from the allocated money.

2. Graduate Credit for Undergraduate coursework: Dr. Oakes stated that there has been some confusion about who can take advantage of this. This program has been intended for students who are seniors with at least a 3.0 GPA and who are planning to pursue a one year master's degree. Previously, these students were restricted to taking only 16 credit hours while taking advantage of this option. A new proposal will raise this limit to 18 hours.

3. Probation: Students with 18 hours or less whose GPA falls below 2.85 are currently placed on probation. This is a fairly recent change as the policy used to place all graduate students on probation when they fell below a 3.0. The change to 2.85 has created problems in various places, and there is movement to return to 3.0 and mimic the undergrad policy. This would mean that if the student receives a 3.0 in the next semester but still does not have cumulative GPA of 3.0, they would still be allowed to remain enrolled as they are showing progress. This discussion has begun in Grad Council.

4. Transfer credit policy: Currently students are allowed to transfer a generic 9 hours allowed to transfer but this number can go as high as 12 hours for some programs, In Human Nutrition only 6 hours are allowed to be transferred. Since all programs are not the same size (number of hours, there is consideration that perhaps a better way to do this would be to allow a certain percentage of the degree to be transferred in.

5. Retention: This is a Winthrop University priority this year, but we haven't talked about it at the graduate level. For programs that do not have a 2 year program, this is irrelevant. It will be helpful for grad programs to be thinking about ways to improve retention. We should consider what challenges our students face to remaining in school and what can we do to increase/insure student retention going forward. Dr. Oakes will be talking with grad program directors in the next month to talk about this.

Dr. Dwight Dimaculangan stated that he believes the problem is not retention but recruitment. He pointed out issues with the website in particular. He also asked what resources we can participate in to recruit. He stated that since we went to hosting a graduate school fair, we have

had less success in recruiting. He asked what better ways are there to use our resources for recruitment.

6. Strategic Plan for the Graduate School: The Graduate School wishes to develop a strategic plan for graduate programs. Focus groups will be conducted and questionnaires utilized to collect data to assist in developing a strategic plan. This will occur in the Fall semester.

III. Adjournment – a motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved.

Respectfully submitted by

Dr. Margaret Gillikin