

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Minutes

Wednesday, October 19, 2016
4:15 – 5:30 p.m., 3150 Beardshear Hall
www.grad-council.iastate.edu

1. **Call to Order** - Chair of Council – Debra Marquart
 - a. Seating of substitute council members – No substitutes
2. **Consent Agenda – Motion to approve. Seconded. Consent Agenda approved, 8-0. None opposed.**
 - a. Minutes of Graduate Council Meeting, September 21, 2016
 - b. Agenda for October 19 Meeting
 - c. Approval of [GCCC items](https://www.grad-council.sws.iastate.edu/2015-2016-docket) – <https://www.grad-council.sws.iastate.edu/2015-2016-docket>.
 - i. MED HG ED (Specialization to Coursework Only)
 - ii. E CPE (Specializations)
 - iii. ARCH 439X/539X
 - iv. HSP M 431X/531X
 - v. POL S 457X/557X
 - vi. Plant Breeding Specialization P3
3. **Announcements and Remarks**
 - a. Graduate Council Chair – Debra Marquart
Steven Lonergan has been elected the new vice chair. One of his duties will be to work with the Graduate Faculty membership committee. Two more names are still needed for this committee. Please forward your suggestions to Deb.
 - b. Associate Provost and Graduate Dean – David Holger. No report.
 - c. Associate Graduate Dean – William Graves. No report.
 - d. Assistant Graduate Dean – Craig Ogilvie. Ogilvie reported on the recent Climate Survey that was taken from graduate students. Electronic copies will be circulated to the Graduate Council. Some of the questions included: Have you had a negative experience based on personal characteristics? Have you been verbally or physically threatened? The results indicate there is work to do to improve the campus climate for safety and academic success. Often offenses were between graduate students or student and faculty member. Positive indicators were related to support from advisors and ISU being recommended to other students. Ideas are being discussed to increase awareness and support student concerns at the College level. The School of Education is taking a lead on student concerns by creating focus groups. The College of Design offers workshops to support students who have been affected by negative experiences.
4. **Old Business Items — Debra Marquart**
 - a. Motion for Addition of GC Executive Committee to Standing Committee Structure – Discussion & Vote. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Approved with a vote of 8-0.
5. Discussion of Overage Course Policy
The council’s discussion centered around a set of talking points about the complexity of overage course policy. Document is available on GC docket website. Summary of discussion: Two years is not adequate time in most humanity programs for completing dissertation after completion of the preliminary exam. “Content rich” courses do not apply to all majors. Some majors have mostly research-based courses. Extended time is often needed for a master’s student who is working in their field. Regarding discussion item 4, we may get in trouble with ADA to state specifically “No” to all overage courses after a certain amount of

time. The Department of English has created a form to provide documentation internally. Perhaps the form could serve as template for other departments. This would help with inconsistency in judgment. Would extending the time from 7 to 10 years with an outer limit of 16 years be reasonable? A petition could be submitted for courses older than 16 years. These changes would eliminate most of the requests. Should the decision be at the department level only? Time limits vary with subject matter. Should all previous degrees be acknowledged? We don't reassess peoples' degrees. We don't want to create disincentives for people to return for a second degree. Can credit be given for professional experience and/or competency? Required classes are usually needed on a more recent basis.

Summary: Point 1 - like 10 years. Point 2 – 2 years in not adequate. Point 3. 16 years OK. Petition for older classes. Other: Bring in College of Education to discuss ramifications. How to account for professional experience? Use form as internal document.

6. Proposal to Change Non-Thesis Final Exam – Follow-up discussion on tabled motion. Do non-thesis students need a final oral exam? Not popular idea with faculty in some areas. A Master of Science degree should have a minimum amount of rigor. How do you defend a creative component? Creative component could be uploaded into digital repository. IND D has all creative components and all need to have a final defense. Are they weakening the value of an M.S. degree? Why not just change to coursework? Possibly accreditation issues or process involved in creating a new degree. Graduate Council members will need to bring it back for further discussion if there is a desire to pursue changes.
7. New Business — Debra Marquart
 - a. Ad Hoc Graduate Award Subcommittees – A sign up sheet was passed around for members to become involved in judging award nominations.
 - b. Graduate Faculty Membership Committee (GFMC) – Seeking Nominations (4 faculty) two additional members are still needed to serve on the committee. Submit names to Deb.
 - c. Status of Chapter 9 Revisions -- 2015-2016 GC Business Follow-up. Ken Moore will attend next month with an update.
8. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 4:15 – 5:30 p.m., 3150 Beardshear Hall