

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

July 18, 2008
204 Whitehurst
MINUTES

Present: Raj Basu, Albert Colom, Bruce Crauder, Robert Dooley, Ed Miller, Shiretta Ownbey, Mark Payton, Kevin Moore, Steve Edwards, Bavette Leeper, and Gail Gates.

1. Academic Probation – Graduate College Proposal – Mark Payton

Graduate students at OSU can be placed on academic probation in one of two ways: they can be admitted on probation upon the recommendation of a program, or they can be placed on probation as a result of poor academic performance. Current policy states that a student must perform “B or better” work in each course during the first (next) 9-12 hours of graduate coursework to have the probation status removed. The Graduate College believes that this requirement to remove probation (B or better in each course) is too restrictive and proposes instead an average GPA of 3.0 or better for a graduate student to be considered in good academic standing.

Members approved.

2. Doctoral Candidacy – Graduate College Proposal – Mark Payton

Results from across the country indicate that a more formal recognition of the transition to doctoral candidacy can have a very positive effect on both student retention and the time to degree completion. Current OSU institutional policy requires students seeking candidacy to not only successfully present their dissertation topic to their advisory committee, but also to pass the “Qualifying Examination” before the student can be considered a doctoral candidate and the Graduate College would like the student to become a doctoral candidate upon successful presentation of a dissertation proposal before their committee. The Graduate College plans to have a reception for doctoral students in late September.

Members approved.

3. Roles of Advisory Committee Members – Graduate College Proposal – Mark Payton

There has been confusion regarding the distinction between the roles of Chair and Advisor of the graduate advisory committee. The Graduate College proposed posting descriptions of these roles in the catalog. There were some concerns by members regarding possible legal implications and other members did not feel that the entire job description needed to be put in the catalog. Members suggested inserting a few statements in the catalog with a link to the more detailed information. Members approved the spirit of the document but that further discussion was necessary regarding the verbiage for the catalog.

Proposal was tabled until next meeting.

4. Curricular Request

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

ENTOMOLOGY, BS in AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES (088)

Program Modification: Option Addition

Option Addition: Bioforensics, Preveterinary and Premedical Sciences

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources request the option addition as the proposed option is currently available to students as an emphasis area entitled biotechnology under the general entomology option. Converting this emphasis area to an option will allow us to better tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of the students pursuing continued education or careers in medical, veterinary, forensic or related fields. It will also

increase awareness of this curriculum and allow us to better tailor the curriculum of the department's other option also.

Approved.

PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCES, BS (014)
Program Modification: Option Name Change

Option Name Change from Soil and Water Management to Soil and Water Resources

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources request the option name change as there was a typo on the original paperwork approved on April 11, 2008. Requesting name change to reflect what was originally intended.

Approved.

College of Human Environmental Sciences

DESIGN, HOUSING AND MERCHANDISING, MS (051)
Program Modification: Option Addition, Option Deletion, and Program Requirement Change

Option Addition: (1) Apparel Design and Production and (2) Interior Design

Option Deletion: Environmental Design

Program Requirement Change: Degree program requirement change

The College of Human Environmental Sciences requests the option additions, option deletion, and program requirement change in order to tailor to the recent legislation in the state of Oklahoma for interior designers that requires a degree from an accredited baccalaureate degree program as a part of the licensure requirements. The change in admission requirements will ensure graduates of the Interior Design option who wish to practice interior design in Oklahoma will have the necessary qualifications to meet licensure and registration guidelines.

Approved.

5. HCA 5990 New Course Request

Approved

6. Policy on Fees, Tuition, and Special Charges to Students – Gail Gates

Will be discussed in the next meeting.

7. Incomplete Grades for Courses that Cross Semesters – Gail Gates and Mark Payton

Dr. Payton asked members to identify courses in which all students in the course typically receive "I" grades. Dr. Payton handed out a list of courses with the most "I" grades and asked members to consider if these courses should be graded with the "PR" instead. The difference between the "I" grade and the "PR" grade is that the "I" grade is a result of a student not completing the assignments while a "PR" course is designed to be completed in more than one semester. Members were asked to check with their colleges and it will be discussed in the next meeting.

8. Academic Integrity Posters – Gail Gates

Members discussed requests for new Academic Integrity posters.

9. Other

Dr. Gates noted that it is time to decide if the University will be open the Saturday before classes start and asked members to check with their colleges. Dr. Gates will send out an email to Instruction Council and Directors of Student Academic Services.

Dr. Gates asked members to begin thinking about the possibility of the University going to a 4 day work week in May 2009 and members suggested going to the 4 day work week in June because a 4 day schedule in May does not provide enough instructional minutes. Members noted that if the University implements the 4 day work week then units need to be informed of the decision right away to begin planning.

Adjourn: 10:40 a.m.