

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2011
310 Jack K. Williams Administration Building
1:30 p.m.

In attendance: Dave Wentling, Mark Zoran, Catherine Roueche-Herdman, Julie Wilson, Scott Miller, Nancy Duran, Robin Autenrieth, Dave Reed, Dick Haney, L. Feigenbaum, Sam Kirkpatrick, Kevin Barge, Patricia Hurley, R. Saravanan, Sue Bloomfield, Cathleen Loving, Nicole Wilkins and recording secretary Suzie Brynildsen.

1. **Approval of March 3, 2011 minutes.** The minutes were approved as written.
2. **Election of new Vice-Chair of Graduate Council.** By unanimous vote - Dr. Robin Autenrieth was elected Vice-Chair of Graduate Council.
3. **New Course Requests:**
The below listed new course requests were approved by Graduate Council.
 - a. CVEN753 Damage Mechanics of Solids and Structures
 - b. EDCI 605 Qualitative Research Methods in Curriculum and Instruction
 - c. EDCI 686 Research Methods in EDCI: I
 - d. EDCI 687 Research Methods in EDCI: II
 - e. EDCI 688 Research Methods in EDCI: III
 - f. HLTH 644 Health Education Theory
 - g. HLTH 646 Health Education Training
 - h. MARB 668 Evolutionary Biology
 - i. MATH 620 Algebraic Geometry I
 - j. MEEN 616 Surface Science
 - k. MEEN 656 Introduction to Mechanical and Physical Properties of Thin Films
 - l. MEMA 634 Damage Mechanics of Solids and Structures
 - m. MSEN 616 Surface Science
 - n. MSEN 656 Introduction to Mechanical and Physical Properties of Thin Films
 - o. WGST 645 Queer Theory

Course Changes:

The below listed course change requests were approved by Graduate Council.

1. CSCE 667 Seminar in Human-Centered Computing and Information
2. EDCI 665: Science Curriculum
3. EPSY 605 Effects of culture, Diversity, and Poverty on Children and Youth
4. EPSY 632 Research in Second Language Education

Special Consideration Items:

The below listed Special Consideration items were approved by Graduate Council.

1. College of Education and Human Development request to delete the Career Development Education doctoral program from the TAMU programs of study.
2. College of Education and Human Development request for prefix change for graduate courses in the Bilingual Program from EPSY to BIED.

4. Discussion Item:

Revision of procedures and guidelines -Chair/Vice Chair Terms and UCC/GC Alignment. Dr. Zoran stated Dr. Sarah Bednarz had provided Graduate Council with documents for consideration. Dr. Zoran, noting Dr. Bednarz was not in attendance at this meeting, said that these documents were basically the Faculty Senate Executive Committee guidelines on reporting committees. In recent discussions with UCC (University Curriculum Committee) it was discussed that the title be changed to Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. That title change would then change some of the duties of that committee. One of those potential changes would be the possibility of eliminating their oversight of the Veterinary Professional Degree. Exactly where that responsibility will move is under discussion. It is being discussed at higher levels and Graduate Council has been asked by the Provost's Office to not discuss or make any decisions on where the Vet School professional curriculum will be overseen. Until Graduate Council hears about the decision we will not discuss Dr. Bednarz's item of changing the scope of our focus relative to how the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee changes. GC will not vote on this today, but Dr. Zoran would like GC members to consider once GC receives clarification that GC revisit these guidelines. Dr. Zoran said that he had spoken to the Executive Committee of Faculty Senate and they are open to whatever changes Graduate Council suggests. The Executive Committee said either work with UCC or within GC and come up with guidelines how GC might be restructured or changed and update GC guidelines. These changes/updates will be passed on to the Executive Committee. Faculty Senate will then consider the proposed changes.

Dr. Zoran suggested that GC members take a look at page one of Dr. Bednarz's documents - under the "Chair Person Election." It currently reads, "The council will elect its chair person from among its voting members." Dr. Zoran said he would like to change that to say that the chair and vice-chair should be elected annually - serving a maximum of three-years. Voting annually is what is consistent with what Faculty Senate says GC should do. After a lengthy discussion among Graduate Council members a motion was made and seconded for the Chair of Graduate Council, Dr. Zoran, to write a document to go forward to the Executive Committee of Faculty Senate recommending a policy change for Graduate Council for a two year term for elected chair and vice-chair positions with an election being held every two years and with a two term limit for those positions. Dr. Zoran said he would check with Executive Committee and come back to the council with their recommendation.