

2012-13 FACULTY SENATE
GRADUATES STUDIES POLICIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
5 March 2013
Approved: 19 March 2013

Members Present: Barakatt. Blanton, Cardenas, Cowan, Hamilton (Chair), Heather, Kaplan, Miller, Reddick, Sprott, Wassmer

Members Absent: Hembree

Guests: Chevelle Newsome, Dennis Geyer

- 1. Call to order:** Called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.
- 2. Minutes of 19 February 2013:** were approved pending a correction of the date.
- 3. Information items:**

- a. Report from Chair:** Chair Hamilton reported that she and Miller had met with University Registrar, Dennis Geyer, regarding the post-baccalaureate repeat policy proposed by this committee that is currently awaiting a first reading by the Faculty Senate. Geyer indicated to Hamilton and Miller that some work would need to be done with IRT that could have an effect on the implementation date of the policy. There was some discussion about changing the date for departments to set their policies to September 30, 2013.

Chair Hamilton reported on meetings with CPC chair Biagetti regarding the credit hour policy. It was reported that CPC would very much like the undergraduate and post-baccalaureate policies to appear at the same Senate meeting. CPC will also be incorporating some of the ideas coming out of GSPC.

- b. Report on Executive Committee Actions:** Chair Hamilton and Miller reported that the Executive Committee had taken up the Standing Rules item from last year that will determine whether or not the chair of GSPC (and the other standing committee chairs) will be a voting member of the Executive Committee in the future. This item will be placed on the March 7th Faculty Senate agenda.

Chair Hamilton reported on some of the issues that the Executive Committee was having with the Program Discontinuation Policy proposed by GSPC but reported that

the item was likely to be approved to move forward to the Faculty Senate within the next two weeks.

Chair Hamilton informed the committee that the Executive Committee would likely be considering making the March 21, 2013 Senate meeting a “Special Meeting” to continue considering the GE items. This would mean delaying the GSPC items that have been waiting to be heard.

- c. Report on Senate actions:** No actions were reported.
- d. Report on CSU actions:** No actions were reported.
- e. Report from Graduate Dean:** Dean Newsome reported that there is discussion about the elimination of the WPJ exam on campus. This would likely eliminate the WPG exam because its funding is tied to the WPJ exam. It has been recommended that all graduate programs develop a GWI course (if one doesn't already exist). The committee briefly discussed the feasibility of requiring all programs to have a GWI course. Chair Hamilton reported that Dan Melzer has offered to come to a GSPC meeting to discuss the matter.
- f. Report on Graduate Advisory Council:** Dean Newsome reported that petitions continue to be processed. Chair Hamilton reported that Don Taylor had approached the GAC regarding the search for a Dean of Graduate Studies.
- g. Other Reports:** Ken Spratt informed the committee that his program (Mechanical Engineering) is currently seeking approval for a blended BS/MS program. The program would be a “4+1” program meaning that a student could complete both degrees in a total of 5 years. Spratt offered to send more information to the committee about this type of program. There was discussion regarding whether there needed to be a campus policy regarding programs like this.

4. Old Business: Credit Hour Definition for Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate Classes

- The committee started with the University of Michigan model which makes the definition a part of the course approval process. Chair Hamilton expressed the concerns of CPC that this would be a workload issue if we were going to make all current courses get reapproved under this policy.
- After much discussion the committee came to the conclusion that the best way to move forward was to have this be a part of the course approval process for future courses and to have each department assess whether their current courses fit the

- definition. This process (for current courses) would not need to go through College and University committees unless a course was determined not to fit the definition.
- The committee agreed that, at our next meeting, we would focus on the credit hour definitions before working much more on the implementation aspects of this policy. Chair Hamilton sent a copy of the current draft of the GSPC credit hour document to all GSPC members immediately following this meeting.
 - Chair Hamilton will discuss the progress made by GSPC today with Chair Biagetti of CPC.

Tracy Dawn Hamilton, Chair of GSPC