

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
SENATE GRADUATE COMMITTEE**

The Senate Graduate Committee met on Thursday, February 1, 2007, in 108 Mitchell Hall.

Present: Ron Andrews, Marianne Berwick, *Barbara Carver, Ann Cunliffe, *Mariana Ibáñez, Claudia Isaac, Jim Jacob (chair), Glenn Koster, Ann Massmann, Wolfgang Rudolph, *David Sanchez, Yu-Lin Shen, Geoff Shuster and Sam Truett, Mary Walker and *Amy Wohlert

Excused: Lonna Atkeson, Anne Calhoon, Sue Queen and*Kathleen Sena

Absent: Joseph Garcia and Mario Rivera

Minutes:

Marianne Berwick moved approval of the November 16, 2006 SGC minutes; Ron Andrews seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Curriculum Subcommittee Report:

Claudia Isaac noted that the subcommittee had met twice since the last SGC meeting and are working diligently to keep up with the curriculum forms submitted. There are many, many forms being sent to the subcommittee as the deadline for the 2007 Catalog draws near. She told the Committee that the matrix (attached) represented only the courses that the subcommittee had reviewed and voted to recommend to the SGC for approval. Those curriculum forms that raised questions for the subcommittee are being held until the questions are resolved. Isaac noted that the curriculum reports for the meetings on February 22 and March 1 would most likely include a large number of forms.

The Committee approved the forms on the curriculum matrix for 2/1/2007. (This will be linked to the matrix form.)

Student Petition Discussion:

Jim Jacob told the members a petition issues has been submitted to the SGC. There are two questions that need discussion: 1) Is the SGC the appropriate body to hear the type of petitions in question? Secondly, if the SGC is the appropriate body, is there a standard approach they should take?

History: The two students were pursuing master's degrees when a series of personal circumstances resulted in each leaving their studies in the middle of a semester. The faculty issued "incompletes" for the registered courses, which eventually lapsed to I/F's. The students want to return to UNM to complete their degrees, but are faced with cumulative GPA's below the 3.0 minimum because of the I/F grades.

One student submitted a petition to the Grade Petitions subcommittee of A&R asking that she be allowed to petition a change of grade (I/F's to W's) outside the three-year time span that the Grade Petitions subcommittee usually applies to grade changes. The answer was no. The second student was advised to not petition the A & R subcommittee as a result of their decision on the first student.

The question to the SGC then is will they consider a petition from the two students? They both have the support of their respective program and both are close to meeting degree requirements.

The Committee discussion focused on the appropriateness of SGC hearing the petitions and the decision was that it should. The students are graduate students and the waiving of policy (cumulative GPA at time of admission/readmission) rested with the Committee.

The Committee chose to hear the details of each petition in order to determine whether or not a standard approach would be applied to any future petition with like circumstances.

Jacob and Mariana Ibáñez provided an overview of each petition. The Committee discussed the merits of each case, together with the documentation presented by the students and the supporting memos from their department faculty. They discussed the students' desires to return to UNM to complete their degrees as well as the likelihood of the students meeting degree requirements in a timely manner. The Committee noted their concerns with the current Incomplete Policy, noting that perhaps an alternate grade, something other than "F" might be more appropriate for courses in which students receive "incompletes."

Jim Jacob moved to approve SGC action on the student petitions as follows: 1) each student will be allowed to readmit to their respective program; 2) the I/F grades will be excluded from the students' cumulative GPA; 3) Dean Wohlert will inform the students and their program of the SGC's decision; and 4) the "Do Not Recalculate" flag will be set on the students' academic record. Claudia Isaac seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The consensus of the Committee was to add the I>F grading policy on a future agenda.

Reports:

OGS:

Dean Wohlert asked for volunteers to evaluate the Popejoy nominations. Sam Truett and Ron Andrews agreed to do so.

Dean Wohlert reported that twenty-seven UNM doctoral programs are participating in the National Research Council report on graduate programs. She noted that the departmental documentation has been completed and now the efforts were focused on encouraging faculty to respond to the NRC questionnaire. She told the Committee that the answers are confidential and would only be viewed by the NRC. She said the letters sent to

faculty describing the process were vague and if any members had conversation with their colleagues about the questionnaire she is very willing to answer questions.

The NM Higher Education Department has advised UNM that the following programs have received final approval:

- Graduate certificate in Women Studies
- Graduate certificate in Systems Engineering
- MS in Clinical Laboratory Science
- MS and PhD in Nanoscience and Microsystems

The next step is assignment of a UNM major code; it appears that we can admit students to the programs beginning with summer 2007.

Dean Wohlerl also noted that the HED staff has submitted a proposed language change of the legislation that governs new graduate certificates. The change would eliminate the need for HED approval of new graduate certificates if the courses already exist and no new resources are requested from the state. Any proposals for graduate certificates would still be required to complete the UNM approval process. The new directives from the HED are expected by mid spring.

SGC:

Jim Jacob directed to two items for discussion. First is the proposed restructuring of the Faculty Senate subcommittee structure. The FS proposal combines the existing twenty-three subcommittees into 6 or 7. Jacob met with two members of the Undergraduate Committee who are also concerned about the possible restructuring. He asked the SGC members how or if they wanted to proceed. Members suggested that Jacob write to Faculty Senate President, Virginia Shipman, inviting her to attend an SGC meeting.

Jacob also reported to the Committee on the Graduation Taskforce Report. He noted that while the work of the taskforce was focused on undergraduate education, they have made two recommendations that might affect graduate students. One is the possible restructuring of the class schedule, offering classes on either a Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday rotation for 75 minutes each day. Secondly, changing the drop/add and "withdraw" dates.

In addition, Jacob noted that the stated purpose of the intercession courses taught between Fall and Spring terms is to assist students who are in jeopardy of losing lottery scholarships. The question then is why are graduate courses being offered?

The Committee will discuss the report at a future meeting. In the interim members are encouraged to read the report on the web:

http://www.unm.edu/~acadaffr/Supporting%20Files/Graduation%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations_Final.pdf

Jacob said he had resent his memo to Dr. Shipman about the SGC suggested language for the Posthumous Degree Policy because he hadn't received a response to his first memo. He will include the response from Law School Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia to his memo about dual degrees with Law to the agenda for the next SGC meeting.

Dean Wohlert asked to make an addition to her report. The OGS is working with UNM Libraries and the Electrical and Computer Engineering department to pilot a project on submission of theses and dissertations electronically. The pilot will take place over the spring and summer of 2007, expanding to several additional departments in the Fall. The plan is to introduce the process to the entire campus for Spring 2008. Draft processes have been developed and OGS will present an overview of the proposed procedure shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33