

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

The Senate Graduate Committee met on Thursday, April 19, 2007, in 108 Mitchell Hall.

Present: Ron Andrews, Lonna Atkeson, Anne Calhoon, Ann Cunliffe, *Barbara Carver, *Charles Fleddermann, *Mariana Ibáñez, Claudia Isaac, Jim Jacob (chair), Glenn Koster, Ann Massmann, Wolfgang Rudolph, *David Sanchez, *Kathleen Sena, Yu-Lin Shen, Geoff Shuster and Sam Truett and Mary Walker

Absent: Joseph Garcia, Mario Rivera

Minutes:

Ann Cunliffe moved approval of the March 22, 2007 minutes; Ann Calhoon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Claudia Isaac moved to approve the minutes of April 5, with minor editorial corrections. Sam Truett seconded the motion. The Committee approved the minutes.

Introduction of Acting Graduate Dean Fleddermann:

Jim Jacob introduced Charles Fleddermann, newly named acting dean of OGS. Dr. Fleddermann told the Committee that he would be in the position for about a year while Dean Wohlert was needed to lead the Anderson School of Management. He will retain his position as Associate Dean for Academics in the School of Engineering, splitting his time between the two colleges once the spring term is over (he's teaching this term). He hasn't scheduled specific times that he will be available in OGS as yet, but he encouraged members of SGC to send him email or schedule appointments to meet with him.

Curriculum Subcommittee Report:

Claudia Isaac reported that the curriculum subcommittee had met to discuss the two curriculum forms before them several weeks ago. The subcommittee noted that they had received a number of Curriculum Forms B from Chemical and Nuclear Engineering formalizing topics courses, and had raised the issue with Professor Abhaya Datye. The subcommittee had not discussed the response, but in an effort to move the forms forward Professor Isaac asked if the SGC would consider them.

The Committee agreed and Isaac presented the two new courses: CHNE 407/507 Surface and Material Engineering and CHNE 408/508 Nuclear Engineering Research Seminar. She noted that the question raised by the subcommittee was: "Is the number of Forms B from Chemical and Nuclear Engineering program was an indication of a restructuring or refocusing their graduate program?" The response was "no, the department is undertaking an effort to integrate research into teaching. Research seminars in each group provide a vital means for educating graduate and undergraduate students in the newest research topics."

Isaac moved approval of the two curriculum Forms B; Lonna Atkeson seconded the motion, which was approved.

Dissertation Committee Signatures:

Dr. Fleddermann told the Committee that an issue has arisen that he needed their help to resolve. The situation involves a doctoral student who has one member who believes the work was not acceptable. The faculty member in question noted his dissenting vote on the student's exam form, but is also refusing to sign the student's manuscript (red-bordered page).

There is no provision in University policy to which OGS staff can refer. Is the dissenting member removed from the student's committee? Can/should he be required to sign the student's manuscript? Does the student submit the manuscript without the dissenting member's signature? Are there other alternatives?

The members discussed the question at length before reaching the consensus that the student should not be penalized for one dissenting vote; the manuscript should be accepted by OGS and the student should graduate; the manuscript signature page should be accepted by OGS without the dissenting faculty member's signature; and that this should be the standard practice for OGS staff in similar situations that might arise.

Admissions Credentials:

Assistant Graduate Dean Barbara Carver reported to the Committee on an issue that needs their resolution. University regulations state that a student must list and submit transcripts from every institution they have attended. However, the Admissions Office is faced with a two-pronged problem

The first is that some students do not list all institutions they've attended on their application form, just those that the student believes are applicable to the degree program for which they are applying. This has created questions about fraud.

Secondly, some departments are sending admissions letters to students whose files are missing transcripts that are listed on their application form. Once students receive departmental letter offering admissions and they do not complete the application process.

The Office of Admissions asks if it would be possible to just require transcripts from institutions from which a degree was received, eliminating the "all institutions attended" requirement.

The Committee decided to continue the current practice. Additionally, they asked that OGS draft some language that each program can add to their letter offering admissions that would clarify that the departmental letter was not the final offer of admission and that the final admission letter would come from the Graduate Studies and would only be issued after ALL transcripts were received.

Reports:

SGC:

Jim Jacob reported that he drafted a letter to the Regent's in response to their request to "give" them sole access to one honorary degree award each year. Copies of the letter will also be sent to the Senate Operations Committee and the chairs of the Undergraduate and Curriculum subcommittees of the Faculty Senate.

He reminded members that the work of the Graduation Taskforce, while focused on undergraduate education, could very well have an impact on graduate education. He asked the members to read the report and to consider those that will impact graduate education such as the restructuring class schedules and changing the drop/add policies. He also noted that the question of intercession graduate level courses has not been addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.