

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

The Senate Graduate Committee met on Thursday, September 20, 2007, in 108 Mitchell Hall.

Members Present: Lonna Atkeson, Mel Armstrong, Yemane Asmerom, *Barbara Carver, *Charles Fleddermann, *Mariana Ibanez, Claudia Isaac, Jim Jacob (chair), Glenn Koster, Greg Martin, Ann Massmann, Sue Queen, Geoff Shuster, John Stormont and Linney Wix

Members Excused: Michelle Arthur, Linda Felton, *David Sanchez and *Kathleen Sena

Guests: Kathleen Keating and John Taber

Minutes:

Sue Queen moved approval of the September 6 meeting. Greg Martin seconded the motion, which passed. The members agreed to read the minutes on-line prior to the meeting and send edits to Mariana Ibáñez; minutes will not be included with the agenda packets.

Curriculum Subcommittee:

Claudia Isaac noted that the subcommittee had met with faculty from Chemical and Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences regarding their proposal for a new concentration in Medical Physics. She noted that the concentration would be a collaborative effort, offered by Nuclear Engineering, although many of the courses would be offered by faculty in Radiological Sciences. The subcommittee's concerns center on cross listing of the courses between the two departments. The forms should be ready for review at the October 4th SGC meeting.

Joint Degree between UNM and Shanghai Jiao Tong University:

Jim Jacob noted that Electrical and Computer Engineering has prepared a proposal for joint degrees (masters and doctoral levels) between UNM and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The ECE department has requested that the SGC review the proposal and make recommendation either move the proposal forward or not.

Jacob has asked the Curriculum/New Programs subcommittee to review the proposal and present their recommendations to the full SGC. In the interim Jacob asked Mariana Ibanez to review the proposal for compliance with University policies. She noted that the only disjoint is that the UNM PhD for students with an existing master's degree requires 24 hours of coursework at UNM (18 after admission). The proposal requires only 15 hours of course work at UNM. There are a few language discrepancies that need clarification as well.

Committee members expressed concerns regarding the dissertation and whether the standard dissertation was adequate to satisfy the requirements of two degrees. The committee did not object to a reduction in residency requirement as requested in the proposal

Jacob expects a report from the Curriculum/New Programs subcommittee at the second October meeting.

Dual Numbered Courses:

Jacob said that the issue of dual numbered courses was a consistent topic of discussion for the Committee. He provided some history of this issue noting that it seemed each time a Form B was submitted for a dual numbered course the same issues were raised: What are the different expectations for undergraduate and graduate students? Are dual numbered courses taught at the undergraduate level or the graduate level? Are graduate students being exploited/used as unofficial TA's in these courses?

Jacob said the past GPSA president, Buck Kreel's report on a survey taken two years ago questioned the practice and he felt it had a negative impact on graduate education. Academic program reviews have also identified dual numbered courses as "problematical" and encouraged programs to reduce or eliminate such courses. As a result, in late spring 2007 the SGC approved the following proposal: "Enrollment in courses with both graduate and undergraduate numbers is restricted to students at level 4 or above except with permission of the instructor." The proposal was forwarded to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee for consideration but scheduling conflicts had delayed its consideration.

At this point Jacob introduced John Taber, a faculty member from Philosophy, who addressed the Committee. Taber said the Philosophy faculty has some concerns about the limiting enrollment in dual numbered courses to seniors. He noted that the Philosophy faculty feared this limitation would have a severe impact on their enrollment. He thought that some bright undergraduates would be disinclined to pursue the permission of faculty option. He told the Committee that the Philosophy faculty were reviewing their curriculum in preparation for an Academic Program Review and plan to decouple the majority of 300/500 level courses they offer. He asked that the Committee to reconsider the "seniors only" restriction in dual numbered courses. Taber reminded the Committee that the move to dual numbered courses was imposed by central administration to increase state funding, and asked if this was still a consideration.

The Committee discussion centered on whether the proposal should be sent forward, or if it should be amended before it was sent forward. Some members of the Committee argued that the restriction was too encompassing and that the decision on enrollment in dual numbered courses should be left to the discretion of the faculty member or the program offering the course. Other members argued that one of the responsibilities to the SGC is oversight of graduate education and if dual numbered courses have a detrimental impact on graduate education then the SGC should move the proposal forward as is. The

issues of enrollment management, additional work for faculty and student perception of the proposed policy changes were discussed as well. The Committee's conclusion is that it is in the best interest of the student for faculty to be proactive in screening advanced juniors for enrollment in dual numbered courses. The majority of the Committee recommended moving the proposal forward as written.

Reports:

GPSA

Mel Armstrong noted that she was unaware of the survey Jacob mentioned earlier, but that she would review GPSA files for it. She announced that GPSA was preparing a new survey of graduate students. The new survey will focus on the experiences of graduate students as employees, health insurance issues, teacher preparation, etc.

The GPSA is hosting an interdisciplinary symposium on Saturday, September 29th. It is the first Symposium solely offered by the GPSA. She invited everyone to attend and to encourage his or her students to attend as well. There is some concern because the 29th is homecoming.

SRAC and ST grant applications are due this week. The GRD grants have been funded again this year. She will report to the Committee at a later date.

Jacob asked that Armstrong add a question to the survey on dual numbered courses.

OGS:

Charles Fleddermann told the Committee that OGS is moving forward on its broad, generalized recruiting efforts as he indicated at the September 6 meeting. The effort was timely as the Regent Koch asked what actions were underway to increase graduate enrollment. Fleddermann outlined the current OGS endeavors and told members to contact him with any suggestions.

Dean Fleddermann was asked if there were funds available to help recruit the "best and brightest" to UNM by increasing the number and /or compensation packages for TA's. Salaries for TA's are not competitive with our peers, Fleddermann agreed. He is working with OGS staff to gather information on compensation packages offered by peer institutions. The information will provide him with a base to argue for additional funds.

Fleddermann reassured the Committee that all the deans were being kept involved and informed with the problems in the Research Office. He will keep the Committee informed of the progress and encouraged the members to come to him with any questions or concerns.

SGC:

Jim Jacob announced that Yemane Asmerom had requested formation of a new subcommittee on enhancing the student experience. He hoped Asmerom would be able to make a formal presentation at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.