

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

The Senate Graduate Committee met on Thursday, October 18, 2007, in 108 Mitchell Hall.

Members Present: Michelle Arthur, Lonna Atkeson, Yemane Asmerom, *Barbara Carver, Linda Felton, *Charles Fleddermann, *Mariana Ibanez, Claudia Isaac, Jim Jacob (chair), Glenn Koster, Char Peery (for Mel Armstrong), Sue Queen, John Stormont, Roli Varma and Linney Wix

Members Excused: Ron Andrews, Greg Martin, Ann Massmann, *David Sanchez, *Kathleen Sena, and Geoff Shuster

Guest: Kathleen Keating

Minutes:

Linney Wix moved approval of the October 4 minutes. Claudia Isaac seconded the motion; the minutes were approved.

Curriculum/New Programs Subcommittee Report:

Claudia Isaac presented a Form B from Management for MGT 755, which was approved. The Form C deleting the EDS in Recreation was also approved. Finally, Isaac presented four Forms B from Biomedical Sciences for courses focused on teaching students how to teach. She noted that the subcommittee had met with Angela Wandinger-Ness who responded to their concerns and provided new documentation that addressed subcommittee questions. The courses were approved.

Isaac reported that the subcommittee had begun discussions on the joint degree issue but were waiting for the results of the inquiry Barbara Carver sent to the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) before continuing.

Isaac reported that she had attended the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee on October 5th, and stated that there were two items that she thought should be brought to the attention of the Committee. The first relates to the possible requirement of a “diversity course” for all students. The FSCC subcommittee on diversity is reviewing various materials and plans to suggest that all students meet a diversity requirement. The exact form of that requirement is to be determined, but several options are being examined. Isaac noted that the FSCC subcommittee had focused the need for a diversity requirement at the undergraduate level, but the graduate student on the FSCC suggested that it should apply to graduate students as well.

The Committee discussion supported the need for sensitivity to and perhaps even training in diversity issues at the graduate level, but concerns about the appropriateness of

instituting what would amount to a “core curriculum” for graduate students, or increasing the number of courses for a graduate degree were also voiced. The Committee felt that UNM faculty as a whole would object to new, forced degree requirements. The consensus was that the need for diversity/sensitivity training would be of benefit to students, the major question was how it could be implemented. Some suggestions were a 1-2 credit, on-going seminar, diversity material to be incorporated into preexisting degree programs, incorporating it into orientation, etc. It was clear that the SGC does not favor a one-size-fits-all approach.

The GPSA representative, Char Peery, noted that this was the first time she had heard about a diversity requirement and that she would take the issue back to the GPSA for discussion. Jim Jacob suggested that GPSA might want to address the issue on the questionnaire being prepared to gather student input. Jacob suggested the issue be tabled until GPSA could prepare a response.

The second FSCC issue is the possibility of fractionated credit hours. Isaac asked Kathleen Keating, chair of the FSCC, to provide a more detailed explanation. Keating said the branch campuses brought the issue forward. They often face situations in which students that can only attend one-half of a one-credit hour seminar or workshop, and do not gain any credit.

The issue was first raised in 2005, according to the FSCC minutes, and while the FSCC appeared to have favored offering some workshop/seminar type courses for .5 or 1.5 credits, it appears that the changes were either not approved, or were not moved on to the other FS committees.

Members of the SGC questioned if fractioned credits would be appropriate at the graduate level. Keating noted that if fractionated credit were allowed at the branch campuses, it would be available for all courses; the question of whether a program would ever offer a graduate course for anything less than a full credit would be left to the discretion of each program.

The SGC will wait until the issue is official sent before the Committee before making a decision.

Graduate Certificate Requirements:

Chair Jacob informed the Committee that the Catalog subcommittee had met to prepare language and policy changes, which will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting. He asked for responses from the Committee on one issue, however. At the October 4th SGC meeting a question was raised about the possibility of a graduate certificate composed solely of “topics” courses. The Catalog subcommittee is considering adding language to the existing certificate requirements limiting “topics” courses to one-third or less of the required course work. A consensus of the Committee was to include a limit on topics courses.

Dual Numbered Courses:

Jacob reported that he had attended a meeting of the Undergraduate Committee on October 5th to listen to their discussion and answer questions on the SGC's proposal that dual numbered courses restrict undergraduate enrollment to seniors. The reception was mixed. Some faculty understood the concerns raised by the SGC while others were very opposed to the proposal.

A number of issues were raised including shifting back to the *400 level courses, adding prerequisites, etc. The faculty seemed to feel that the need for registration overrides would discourage students and further drop enrollments, especially since faculty are not always available and the impact of the policy on small departments with limited resources.

Jacob reminded the SGC that Mel Armstrong is working on a GPSA survey questioning graduate students on their experiences in dual numbered courses and compiling their comments. He noted that there are other options that could be considered such as opening the registration to juniors and seniors, and prerequisites for undergraduates in dual numbered courses. The FSUG suggested that the issue be opened to comments from all academic units before it moved forward. Jacob suggested that SGC could also develop a set of expectations for all dual numbered courses.

The Committee chose to table the discussion until after the GPSA survey is complete.

Reports:

OGS: Dean Fleddermann provided the Committee with a brief report on the minimum TA salaries at UNM peer institutions for the 2007-08 academic year. He noted that this was preliminary information and did not include information on benefits, tuition, or the full range of salaries. That information is being compiled and will be distributed when the process is complete.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.