

University Council on Graduate Study
December 15, 2009
Minutes
3:00-5:00 p.m.
817 CL

Attending: Patricia Beeson (Provost's Office and A&S, Chair), Kay Brummond (A&S), Stephen Carr (A&S), Nicole Constable (A&S), Samuel Conte (Registrar), Valire Copeland (Social Work), PJ Dillion (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), William Dunn (Public and International Affairs), Maggie Folan (Pharmacy), Amanda Godley (Education), Mary Elizabeth Happ (Nursing), Donald Hoffman (Dental), John Horn (Medicine), Daniel Jimenez (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), Margaret Mahoney (Law), Robert Parker (Engineering), Sandra Quinn (Public Health), Jayant Rajgopal (Engineering), Anthony Petrosky (Education), Joan Rogers (Health Rehabilitation), Martin Weiss (Information Sciences), Stephanie Hoogendoorn (Provost's Office)

Guests: Steve Albert, Anthony Iannacchione, Rob Stall, Jeanette Trauth and Radisav Vidic

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 2009 meeting were approved.

Announcements

The following two announcements have come out of communications surrounding the Annual Meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools held December 2-5, 2009.

1. Educational Testing Service will be revamping the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) in 2011. The exam will be lengthened by thirty minutes to three and a half hours (for the Internet-based exam) and graded on a new scale of 130 to 170 with 1-point increments. The current scale is 200 to 800 with 10-point increments. The new verbal section will eliminate questions on antonyms and analogies. On the quantitative section, the biggest change will be the addition of an online calculator. The writing section will continue to have two parts, one asking for a logical analysis and the other seeking personal responses. For security reasons, new content will be introduced and the sequence of questions will be scrambled every two hours.
2. Charlotte Kuh said via e-mail that the report of the National Research Council's assessment of research-doctorate programs and its database are "about to go into review." She further said that "we have decided not to announce a publication timeline [in 2010] until we can be quite certain about it."

Patty Beeson would like Council's thoughts on the requirement that a faculty member attend the English Comprehensibility Test for International TAs. Faculty attendance is currently required in order to prevent any disputes over language and to assess the ability of the student to provide answers in the discipline. Several members recommend that there should be some experimentation with alternatives for this requirement, such as requiring faculty attendance only at a second test in case of a dispute, asking faculty to provide written questions in advance of the

test, and videotaping the test for later review in cases where there is a dispute.

Program Proposal: Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Programs in Mining Engineering from the Swanson School of Engineering

The graduate-level certificate program will be open to all students currently enrolled in a graduate engineering program and the post-baccalaureate certificate program will be open to professionals with a baccalaureate engineering or science degree.

Anthony Iannacchione and Radisav Vidic presented the proposal. An undergraduate certificate in mining engineering was initiated in 2008 and most of the courses for the graduate and post-baccalaureate certificates are already being offered. They answered questions from Council members including how the graduate-level certificate programs differ from continuing education credits and from an associate's degree, if courses required for the certificates will be taught via distance education, and if adjunct faculty will teach the certificate courses.

Council discussed the proposed program. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed certificate programs subject to the proposal being revised to include an assessment plan consistent with University guidelines and to correct miscellaneous typographical errors. Council asked that Patty Beeson review and approve the revisions. All voted in favor of the motion.

Additional Information for Program Proposals: Ph.D. and Dr.P.H. in Behavioral and Community Health Sciences from the Graduate School of Public Health

The two proposed programs were previously reviewed by Council on November 17, 2009. Council decided not to vote on the proposals and requested that additional information be submitted that describe when and how students will develop research skills through mentored research with a faculty member.

Steve Albert, Rob Stall, and Jeanette Trauth presented this additional information and answered questions from Council members including clarifying the degrees requested in the employment announcements, how students in both programs could take the same seminars, and if any courses in these programs will be offered via distance education.

Council discussed the proposed programs in light of the additional information provided. A motion was made and seconded to approve the new Ph.D. program and the modified Dr.P.H. program in Behavioral and Community Health Sciences. All voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010.