

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
Minutes: October 30, 2017, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
411 Axinn.

Present: Debra Goodman, Erin Ward Ciesielski (Psychology PHD student), Nick Santangelo (Biology), Dennis Mazzocco (RTVF/ Comm),
Bob Brinkmann (Provost Office), Monica Conforti (Grad. Admission), Evan Koegl (Registrar), LIU Patokina (SOE-Certification)

Minutes from 9/25/17: Minutes were passed with one correction. Nick's discussion item was attributed incorrectly. Amended minutes attached.

Old Business:

Graduate Deficiency Emails: At last meeting, Nick raised a point regarding emails noting that students have an academic deficiency. The issue is that the graduate advisor does not know the nature of the deficiency for follow up. Nick sent the graduate schedule deficiency email to Provost (Bob Brinkmann) and Registrar (Evan Koegl). They are looking into the matter and will provide an update. Evan explained that the letters replace major approval forms in most cases. With improved on-line records, the registrar's office reviews major approvals and informs advisors in case of deficiency only.

Graduate Directors Meeting Report/ Discussion: Advanced Certificates & Badges

At the fall graduate directors meeting, there was a discussion of developing AC degrees and Badges. AC degrees are typically 12 to 15 s.h. and provide specialization in a particular area, possibly crossing fields. They are typically post masters credits. AC degrees require NY state approval but badges can be approved at Hofstra, partly because entrance would be available for non-matriculated students. Stonybrook and Harvard provide examples of badge programs.

Badges involve two to three courses and focus on a skill area such as web design. Hofstra does not currently have badges, so this is something in the development stages. Discussion focused on advantages of a badge. For recruitment, students could take a few courses and then later use towards degree. In addition, someone who is in a degree program could tag on a badge.

Bob Brinkmann shared that Hofstra's focus is on graduate badges. Tends to be most popular in business or health sciences. Some universities do have undergraduate badges for extracurricular activities such as student government.

Dennis felt that discussion his area of Radio/Television/ Film might be possible area for badge programs and further discussion in departments and schools might be warranted.

Graduate Admissions: Monica Conforti

Monica shared that applications are down about 30% from last year at this time. We have 289 apps. compared to 414 from last year. Yield is also down, with 145 admits compared to 191 last year at this time. There is a graduate application forthcoming for next fall.

Discussion involving international students. Jessica Eads has reported that applications to Canadian schools are off the charts. Monica shared that this is a response to immigration policy. Expectation of foreign students to build a foundation and find a job after graduation. Currently that welcome is not being attended.

Committee discussed some recruitment strategies.

In SOE:

- Dean Rivkin has established two committees: publicity committee/ curriculum committee.
- Several five year programs have recently been approved leading to Elementary Education or Secondary Education in undergraduate degree and Literacy, TESL or STEM in graduate degree.
- Combined programs such as MA in STEM/ TESL or STEM/Literacy.

Existing five year programs

- Five year: Integrative biology BS/MS
- Five Year: Physicians Assistant (PHA)

NYSED barrier for 5 year programs: One barrier for 5 year programs is that NYSED is favoring “true” 5 year programs (such as Hofstra’s PHA) where all degrees and certifications are earned at the end of both programs. The 5 year SOE programs were approved on that basis – so that students earn both the BS and MSED/MA after five years, as well as all certifications. This is not popular with students who may hope to begin working following the BS, and is difficult as some certifications (i.e. literacy) require that students be certified prior to entering that area.) Elementary Education have worked out advisement plans that will allow students to navigate the two degrees at the 5 year pace.

Doctoral:

- Current doctoral programs are doing well. There was discussion of increasing doctoral programs. School of education has added a higher education doctoral program. However a doctoral program in Special Education, approved by SOE, has been stalled in moving forward.

New Business:

Graduate Bulletin:

The committee outlined a plan for continuing to review “Academic Policies and Procedures” within the graduate bulletin. (During 2016-2017, the committee completed a review of the Basic Regulations Governing Graduate Programs and the Master’s Essay or Thesis. These changes were approved and are in the bulletin.

Next Steps:

- Review the on-line layout for “Academic Policies and Procedures”
- Begin a review of “Basic Policies Governing Doctoral Programs.”

<http://bulletin.hofstra.edu/content.php?catoid=85&navoid=10222>

Nick raised the issue of “transfer credits,” and suggested that we check with doctoral directors regarding whether the policy is consistent with their programs.

Transfer Credits

Doctoral candidates offering transfer credits must complete a minimum of half the total course work required for the doctorate at Hofstra. If the candidate holds a master’s degree from Hofstra, the completion of 54 semester hours (credits earned toward a master’s degree may be included) of course work is required for the doctorate in-residence. In other cases, a minimum of 45 semester hours must be completed at Hofstra. See individual program listings for further details.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10.

Follow-up:

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Liu Patokina followed up with SPED faculty about status of the Ed.D. in Special Education.

Email 11/2/17: I talked to Elfreda (Blue) about PHD in Special Education and below is Elfreda’s response, “*We had a waiting list of 14 for that program. We continue to get inquiries for it. Some students who have been waiting for the program have written inquiries to the Provost and Dean to learn more about the program. Still another has entered the Ed Leadership program because the SPED program they wanted was not available.*”

Debi will check with doctoral directors regarding the Basic Regulations Governing Doctoral Programs.