

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
Minutes: November 27, 2017

Present:

Debra Goodman (Literacy Studies/ SOE), Dennis Mazzocco (RTVF/ Comm), Nick Santangelo (Biology), Erin Ward-Ciesielski (Psychology), Liudmila Patokina (SOE/ Certification), Bob Brinkmann (Provost Office), Jean Peden-Christodoulou (Student Affairs), Evan Koegl (Registrar), Monica Conforti (Graduate Admissions)

Minutes from October 30, 2017

The committee approved the minutes with two corrections. Eric Ward Ciesielski is a faculty member (not a student), Dean Rifkin's name was misspelled. (See attached.)

Old Business/ Reports:

- Status of the Doctorate in Special Education. Liudmila asked about this at the last meeting and learned that degree had been approved by SOE Curriculum & Standards but has not been submitted to NYSED. Currently Provost Simmons is discussing the degree with Dean Rifkin.
- Five year programs. The issue raised at the last meeting is that NYSED is approving 5 year programs but only if all degrees and certifications are awarded upon completion of the program. Dean Brinkmann reported that the provost's office is working to come up with bulletin language that offers pathways to completing a bachelor's and master's degree in five years. This will allow students to complete their undergraduate degree and then bring in graduate work into the graduate degree.

Bulletin Copy related to Religious Observations

The committee discussed the Ad-hoc Calendar the Committee's report and recommended guidelines. The consensus of the committee is that proposed language is acceptable and protects students and faculty. The GAAC members feel that the policy should be displayed on the web but that faculty not be required to include the language course syllabi.

Two suggestions:

Title – For Religious Observance occurs twice.

Sentence 1 – the words “from time to time” do not seem necessary.

Basic Regulations Governing Doctoral Programs

The committee reviewed the bulletin copy providing general guidelines for doctoral programs. In addition to the issues listed below, the committee discussed the 10 year time limit for doctoral coursework. No changes were recommended at this time.

The issues listed below were raised for further discussion.

- Admissions #4: A nonrefundable tuition deposit of ~~\$250~~ may be required...
 - *Drop the specific amount since the deposits have changed and vary across programs.*
- Transfer Credits: Discussion of whether the 54 semester hours and 45 semester hours addresses current practice across doctoral programs.

- Dissertation Committees: There was a discussion of the general language about the composition of dissertation committees. Specifically, some GAAC members wondered why the language does not specify inclusion of members outside of the department. This is common practice in SOE doctoral degrees but is not a standard practice in Psychology.
- Doctoral Dissertation #5: The committee wondered if this statement about the student not getting outside help without permission is necessary.
- Matriculation: Lengthy discussion of this policy which might be reviewed more closely.

Erin Ward Ciesielski offered to bring these issues to the Psychology faculty. Debra Goodman will bring the issues to the three doctoral program directors in SOE. Any information and recommendations will be brought to the GAAC at the next meeting in Spring, 2018.

Grading Policy: PR grade

Liudmila raised that the current wording is not accurate as there are other 300 & 600 level courses that use the PR grade. And at least one 200 level course. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Report to SEC/ Senate:

- Doctoral Program in Special Education – Under discussion between Provost Simmons and Dean Rifkin.
- 5 year programs – Provost/ registrar is working on budget copy that would bundle programs in order to allow students to earn the bachelors at time of completion and move on to masters degree.
- Religious observance language discussion and approved, but not to be included in syllabus. Two wording changes noted. (From time to time/ repetition in title.)
- Reviewing bulletin copy governing doctoral programs. Identified items to clarify with directors. Will be taken to Psychology and SOE doctorates and return to committee meeting in Spring.
- Also raised grading policy regarding the PR grade, which lists specific course numbers.

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