

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2018 – 3:30-5:00 p.m.
IRIC 321

x	Jerry McMurtry		Ben Hunter		Fahmid Tousif
x	Esmael Alyami	x	Jill Johnson	x	Greg Turner-Rahman
x	Julie Amador - phone	x	Gordon Murdoch	x	Daniel Strawn
x	Jeff Bailey	x	Kelly Quinnett		Elowyn Yager - phone
x	Laura Holyoke - phone		Alistair Smith		Ata Zadehgol

- I. Approval of the minutes from February 28, 2018
 - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Johnson.
 - Approved unanimously

- II. Announcements and Reports
 - A. Grad Recruitment Day
 - It went well. Departments brought in exceptional candidates. Hope to land several of them.
 - 2 have already committed.
 - B. 3 Minute Thesis
 - It is happening next Monday, April 2. 18 students have registered.
 - C. Innovation Showcase
 - Happening April 25. Registration information for students and judges will be sent out soon.

- III. Discussion
 - A. TA/RA/SA Catalog Language
 - Regular employee benefits are not available to graduate students, such as annual leave, sick leave, and university provided health insurance.
 - B. Additional Appointments for Graduate Assistants
 - Language has been added to allow full-time graduate assistants to hold an additional temporary help position working up to 10 hours per week.
 - The consensus was that this is about right with a provision for special cases.
 - Language will be added saying additional appointments over 10 hours per week are subject to approval by COGS.
 - Members discussed and voted on A & B together, since they are part of the same document.
 - Murdoch moved to approve the new catalog language for Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships with the addition noted above. Seconded by Bailey.
 - Approved unanimously
 - C. Major Professor Language
 - A fifth reason for co-major professors was suggested: interdisciplinary research.
 - Does language need to be added indicating what the highest degree is?
 - It was suggested to add a link to the list of equivalent degrees created by NIH/CGS.

- Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Murdoch.
 - Approved unanimously.
- D. Thesis and Dissertation Statements
- There was discussion around non-thesis options. Members had concern that there is not a committee required for non-thesis programs.
 - There was a suggestion to consider creating rules for non-thesis requirements.
 - Perhaps the department chair signature can/should be added to the Non-Thesis Requirement Form.
 - Several members had concerns with the non-thesis degree seeming like a “consolation prize” in some departments.
 - Members had issues with 2 students getting the “same” degree when one is thesis and one is non-thesis.
 - The thesis degrees and non-thesis degrees should be separate/distinct degrees.
 - Members asked if “Non-thesis” could be added to the transcript.
 - McMurtry will talk to the Registrar’s Office to see if that can happen, if it doesn’t already.
 - Murdoch moved to approve. Seconded by Strawn.
 - Approved unanimously.

Adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Future Meetings:

April 18

May 9

All meetings are on Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Pacific) in IRIC 321.