Graduate Studies Committee Minutes  
October 17, 2014


Student Government Representative: R. Shei

Guests: Lesa Huber, Amaury de Siqueira, Aaron Sayegh, M. Torabi

Secretary: B. Coble

Approval of Minutes: Moved to approve April 17, 2014 minutes, correction was made adding C. Sherwood-Laughlin as member present, D. Knapp 1st, L. Kamendulis 2nd; all approved.

Approval of Agenda: Moved to approve agenda, S. Middlestadt 1st, L. Kamendulis 2nd; all approved.

Announcements and Updates: M. Reece informed all that Ren-Jay received the Presidents Doctoral Diversity Fellowship, a very prestigious award - congratulations followed! K. Gilbert made an announcement regarding the presentation given by the School of Business at the campus curriculum meeting. The presentation included details of how they are handling the 4+1 program.

Discussion

Accreditation Site Visit: M. Reece informed the graduate curriculum directors that they should have received invites to their appropriate meetings during the mock self-study, and the actual self-study. M. Reece will be sending bullet points regarding what they will be asking. He will then be working on the mock and actual site visit.

Online Course Development: L. Huber distributed handouts with explanation and suggestions for developing three courses online – SPH-X 505, SPH-Q 501 and SPH-X 590. L. Huber will be returning to update this group when courses are more developed. S. Middlestadt commented that at some point there will be a need for a policy statement - M. Reece conveyed this should be done but at a later time.

Graduate Student Recruitment: Dr. Torabi spoke of where he sees the campus heading and some of the major issues coming down on deans due to graduate student recruitment. M. Reece informed Dean Torabi that grad student recruitment is a priority this year and this committee will be working over the course of the year to develop grad student recruitment strategies. Dr. Torabi made the comment we need to get on board with the 4+1 program it is very attractive for parents and students. We are a flagship campus with undergrad numbers going up and grads going down, which is a red flag. We need to strategize and see what we can do to increase our graduate enrollment - such as make investments for research, grants, etc.
SPH-X 590 formerly HPER-T 590: M. Reece introduced Aaron Sayegh, Clinical Professor of EPI/BIO. Aaron is working to revise SPH-X 590. M. Reece brought up possibly moving this class out of the dean’s office and into EPI/BIO. Dr. Sayegh began with the disconnect in the title of the class and the description. Dr. Sayegh compensates for gaps in the curriculum with individualized attention. There is a need to decide which major’s students take this class and when. M. Reece stated some see this course as a fulfillment and not a prerequisite.

As Dr. Sayegh works on the development of this course, there is a need to determine what this course is to become, and whether it should be in Epi/Bio. In addition, thought should be given to what its role is in Ph.D. requirements.

AHS Curriculum Matters: S. Middlestadt presented request for approval to change the name of the Public Health Education Doctoral Minor to the Public Health Doctoral Minor and change number of credits from 15 to 12. This minor will be for those in our school and outside. Moved to approve change of name and curricular change, D. Knapp 1st, T. Mickleborough 2nd; all approved

Graduate Certificate Safety Management: S. Middlestadt presented request to approve. K. Gilbert requested changes to be made that were agreed on. S. Middlestadt requested motion to approve with changes that K. Gilbert requested, and then review with K. Gilbert, D. Knapp 1st, T. Mickleborough 2nd; approved - K. Gilbert not present at time of approval

Public Health Doctoral Minor courses offered online: committee discussed advertising the minor as an online minor, designed for those outside the school not inside the school, as a marketing ploy. M. Reece recommended that there would be no vote but to approve this minor and support the desire to promote the fact that we have this minor and it can be completed online. This is a minor that can be completed online and not designated as an online minor.

Application Update: N. Montemayor stated that applicants who have submitted their application thru SOPHAS have given her mixed feedback. Some have stated that it was very easy, but others have complained because they had to enter application information in both SOPHAS and the eApplication. There have been no admits or denies for the Ph.D. since our last meeting.