University Graduate Council Minutes

October 8, 2013
Cabell Library, room 448

Members present:
Douglas Boudinot, chair
Melissa Abell
Brenda Dwyer
Rosemary Farmer
Richard Huff
Vojo Kecman
Donna McClish
Clint McCown

Tish Moczygemba
Alison Montpetit
Sherry Sandkam
Mark Schaefermeyer
Laura Sim-Selley
Anthony Starke
Angela Starkweather
Leslie Stratton

Guests: Drs. Kate Grant, Geoffrey Hugo, Ann Hamric, Sarah Rutan, Jessica Waugh, and Meng Yu

I. Committee Reports
A. Committee on Admissions and Academic Standards
   No report.

B. Committee on Internal Review
   Dr. Sherry Sandkam reported that the committee will review the Graduate School’s By-laws this academic year.

C. Committee on Policies and Procedures
   Dr. Sandkam reported that the Committee will be meeting to establish agenda items.

   The Thesis/Dissertation Taskforce will review and make recommendations to the Council on Thesis/Dissertation policies and procedures.

   Graduate School staff will be working with the Degree Audit Office to create and test graduate degree audit templates this year, with an implementation goal for Fall 2014. In conjunction with this initiative, the Graduate Council and the Graduate Deans Advisory Committee are being asked to confirm support for the creation of an accurate graduate grade point average based on the program matriculation. Dr. McCown motioned to support this request. The motion was seconded and will be voted on at the November UGC meeting.

   Dr. Sandkam introduced Dr. Ann Hamric, Associate Dean for the School of Nursing. Dr. Hamric presented a memorandum of understanding for the NEXus (Nursing Education Exchange) Collaborative. The MOU was approved in concept by higher administration on May 22, 2013. A NEXus Implementation Taskforce has been meeting to address academic policy and systems issues. The NEXus arrangement will allow NEXus courses to be displayed on the VCU transcript utilizing an NEXS course rubric and for grades for those courses to be posted and incorporated into the VCU graduate GPA. Students in the Ph.D. in Nursing program will be allowed to take no more than 12 NEXus credits, which is in keeping with the Graduate Council’s transfer policy limit.
these courses will be limited to electives. Since these courses already exist (i.e., have been approved by the UGC or the equivalent body at other accredited NEXus participating institutions), the School of Nursing will not need to submit new course proposals each time a course is offered by NEXus participating institutions. Because of time constraints for spring implementation, the Council acted as a committee of the whole to accept Dr. Hamric’s recommendations. Dr. Dwyer motioned to approve. The motion was seconded and passed.

D. Committee on Programs and Courses

New course
Graduate School
GRAD 610 Career and Professional Development Planning for Graduate Students
GRAD 611 Professional and Personal Development

School of Allied Health Professions
PHTY 676 Comprehensive Study of Physical Therapy Practice

Curriculum update
School of Nursing
NURS 506 Leadership in Health Care and Nursing (Nurse Leadership Institute)

Course change
School of the Arts
SCPT 500 Graduate Sculpture
    Course description change
SCPT 600 Graduate Sculpture
    Course description change
SCPT 690 Graduate Seminar
    Course description change
SCPT 692 Independent Study
    Course description change

School of Engineering
CMSC 502 Parallel Programming
    Change title to: Parallel Algorithms
    Course description change

School of Medicine
IBMS 620 Laboratory Rotations
    Change title to: Laboratory/Clinical Rotations
    Course description change
MICR 686 Advanced Immunology
    Change from 2 credits to 3 credits

School of Pharmacy
MEDC 591 Topics in Medicinal Chemistry
    Change from 3 credits to 3.5 credits

Course deletion
School of the Arts
ARTH 505 Advanced Studies in Greek, Etruscan and Roman Art and Architecture
ARTH 530 Guided Study Abroad
ARTH 544 Advanced Studies in Art and Architecture of the United States
ARTH 555 Advanced Studies in Aesthetics and Art Theory
ATH 574 Advanced Studies in Film
ARTH 575 Advanced Studies in the History of Photography
ARTH 759 Seminar in Aesthetics, Theory and Criticism of Art and Architecture
ARTH 780 Aspects of Christian Iconography
CARD 799 Thesis
School of Business
ECON 690 Research Seminar in Economics
FIRE 758 Theory of Finance
FIRE 759 Portfolio Theory and Management
INFO 767 Information Systems Network Design

**School of Engineering**
EGRB 641 Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods
EGRB 680 Research Orientation I-II
EGRB 681 Research Orientation I-II

**School of Medicine**
BIOC 606 Biochemical Control Processes
PHIS 617 Cellular Signaling
PHTX 637 Cellular Pharmacology

**Bulletin Changes Approval by the Graduate School**
**School of the Arts** – update contact information for Department of Sculpture
**School of Nursing** – update contact information for Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems
**School of Nursing** – update contact information for Administration

II. **Action Items**

**Dual program**
**College of Humanities & Sciences**
M.S., Chemistry – dual degree with the Fudan University - **APPROVED**

**Re-open Admissions**
**School of Medicine**
Ph.D., Medical Physics – reopen admissions for fall 2014 - **APPROVED**

**Program update**
**School of Engineering**
CMSC 519 Software Engineering: Specification and Design – course deletion - **APPROVED**
Curriculum revision to delete CMSC 519 - **APPROVED**

**School of Medicine**
Health Care Policy and Research - revised admission requirements for non-native English speakers – **APPROVED**

**School of Nursing**
Update the Academic Requirements page - **APPROVED**
Update the Enrollment page - **APPROVED**

**Office of Research**
M.S., Clinical and Translational Sciences – updated bulletin copy/curricular changes and suspension of admissions - **APPROVED**
CTTR 550 Foundations of Clinical and Translational Research: The Intersection of Theory and Application – course deletion - **APPROVED**
CTTR 630 Design Implications in Clinical Trials – new course - **APPROVED**
CTTR 700 Master’s Essay - **APPROVED**
  Change course title to: Master’s Capstone Project
  Description change
CTTR 810 Foundations of Translational Research – course deletion - **APPROVED**
CTTR 815 The NIH Proposal Challenge – course deletion - **APPROVED**

III. **Old Business**
No old business.
IV. New Business
   Dr. Rosemary Farmer was elected parliamentarian.

V. Chair’s Report
   Graduate enrollment projections for fall 2013 were not met; enrollments were particularly low at the
   master’s level. The Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice Provost for Strategic Enrolment
   Management are working with the academic deans and associate deans for graduate education to ensure
   projections are met for fall 2014. Quest for Distinction’s number one initiative for 2013-2014 is
   graduate education. Three proposals have been submitted to the budget office: the first is to lower tuition
   for students who have reached candidacy; the second is to increase the level of stipends and the number
   of assistantships; and the third is to provide funding for development programs such as PFF, LEAPD
   and student travel grants.

Adjourned at 4:05pm.