

## **Minutes of the Graduate Council (GC) for February 17, 2016**

Present: Andrews, Beise, Bruck, Caramello (Chair), Castonguay, Cork, Corsi, Cowdery, Dalglish, Delwiche, DeShong, Hemingway, Kohn, Long, Maddux, Neubert, Rockcastle, Simpson, Sprinkle, Wang, Wilkins, Wilkinson

Staff: Chen, Franke, Leone, Shayman

### ***I. Approval of Minutes***

Minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2015 were approved with no emendations.

### ***II. Updates***

Dean Caramello reported on the formation of a GC Outcomes Assessment Policy Oversight Committee. The current Graduate Outcomes Assessment Committee, with representatives from each college, reviews graduate program outcomes assessment plans, reported data, and use of data for program improvement. The Policy Oversight Committee will comprise members of the GC, and will review overall policy for Graduate Outcomes Assessment. Councilors Long, Lucas and Rabin have agreed to serve on this committee.

Dean Caramello updated the GC on the Doctorate of Professional Studies PCC proposal. The proposal for the generic DPS has been tabled, while the program-specific DPS from the iSchool—DPS in Executive Leadership of Information Organization (ELIO)— will be taken up by the iSchool in Summer 2016 when the new dean is in place.

Dean Caramello updated the GC on Spring 2016 initiatives. The GS Pilot Writing Initiative for Graduate Faculty offered train-the-trainer workshops for faculty from across campus in Fall 2015 and will train additional faculty in Spring 2016. The GS Office for Diversity and Inclusion is presenting a five-part speaker series with funding from Pepsi and co-sponsored with other campus departments, and a two-part “Conversations on Diversity” series as part of the Provost’s “Maryland Dialogues on Diversity and Community” initiative. In April, the GS Office for International Initiatives will host an international forum on U.S. economic and political with China and India. The GS Professional Development Initiatives will begin in Spring 2016 with a program on Multiple Career Paths for Doctoral Students. The program will feature a forum on careers in the public, private, and educational sectors followed by workshops on each of those sectors.

### ***III. Report and Discussion***

Councilor Sprinkle reported findings of the Working Group on Graduate Certificates. The Working Group identified approximately 115 certificates. These vary widely from department to department. Policy areas that need to be addressed include the difference between graduate certificates and citations, the relationship of certificates to degree programs, comingling of students and double counting of credits, and the related question of the status of Advanced Special Students as pertains to enrollment in certificate programs.

Discussion of these policy areas followed, including the following points:

With respect to comingling, Assistant Dean Franke pointed out issues related to faculty teaching entrepreneurial classes “on load” and to students enrolled in the same course paying varying tuition rates.

Councilor DeShong indicated that he does not consider the comingling or tuition issues as major. He also proposed that if a “certificate” student passes a course and then is admitted into a masters program requiring that course, the passing grade should count toward the masters requirements.”

Councilor Neubert commented that courses offered on-line for certificate programs and given the same course number as in-person courses must maintain the same standards of academic rigor.

Councilor Wilkins noted that graduate students would like access to courses in professional graduate certificate programs. Such courses could supplement academic programs or research and contribute to the professional development of students, particularly students’ preparation for multiple career paths.

Councilors Sprinkle and DeShong proposed that making the individual *course* the basic unit for measurement—rather than the student or the program—could solve many problems related to comingling, double counting of credits, and admissions.

The GC agreed that a set of guiding principles for certificate programs would be beneficial to departments, faculty, and students. The GC asked the working group to develop such a set of principles for the GC’s review at a subsequent meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12 Noon.