Graduate Council Meeting
September 24, 2019 ● 9:00 – 10:00 ● Gilmore 212

Minutes

Attendance:
Quorum: 12 (Current membership = 24)

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<th>Name of Member</th>
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<td>O. Boric-Lubecke, ENGR</td>
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<td>C. Browne, MBTSSW</td>
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<td>C. Karamperidou (J. Lemus), SOEST</td>
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<td>R. Jha CTAHR</td>
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<td>A. Tse, SONDH</td>
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<td>S. Chang, JABSOM</td>
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<td>R. Ka’aloa, HSHK &amp; SPAS</td>
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<td>Q. Liu, ARCH, TIM, &amp; SCB</td>
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<td>N. Segeral, LLL</td>
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<td>A Berez-Kroeker, LLL</td>
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<td>K. Heyer, CSS</td>
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<td>Y. Xu, CSS</td>
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Guest: Ivy Mu, Graduate Division

Announcements/Updates

- WRGP Western Regional Graduate Program changes
  - Part of WICHE organization. Beginning Fall 2020, nearly all graduate programs will be participants of the WRGP program. Eligible participants may be admitted at 150% of resident rate with a 3.0 GPA. Current students in WRGP remain at the resident rate. Benefit is only upon admission.
  - If a student enters as a WRGP recipient, it remains on their record
- Clarification: formerly we had tuition waivers which were converted to tuition dollars. Tuition funds are annually allocated to graduate programs and Graduate Division for merit scholarships via the Giving Tree. Waivers are no longer available in the same way they used to be provided.
- Non-Resident Tuition Exemptions (NRTE) - a small allotment is available to graduate programs. We maximize their use; any unused NRTEs allocated to your program should be returned for “re-deployment” for a given semester.
- Graduate Tuition rates, resident & especially non-resident tuition will decrease starting Fall 2020.
- Graduate Chair Matters + Fall Welcome and Updates with Graduate Division: 10/10/19 QLCSS 412 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
  - Means by which Graduate Chairs can network and receive
professional and leadership development opportunities. It’s a parallel series to Leadership Matters.
  ○ Graduate Chair Matters Session #2 with Leslie Mitchell, Office of Judicial Affairs

• Graduate Assembly 11/21/19 from 12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Kuykendall 101

• Grad Maps
  ○ On-going initiative. Starting with master’s programs, succinct and informative information about the graduate program and what graduates can do with that degree. Programs are encouraged to consider developing one.

• SACNAS 10/31 – 11/2 Hawai’i Convention Center
  ○ Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science. This is their National Diversity in Stem Conference and is a graduate student networking and recruitment opportunity. Exhibit hall area for graduate programs from UHM.

• BAM pathway proposals to be discussed at the October meeting:
  ○ Internal streamlined program to move from bachelor’s degree to master’s degree. Double-counting of up to 9 designated credits.
    ○ (will be provided to Program Committee after today’s meeting via Google Drive)
  ○ ATMO BS – MS
  ○ BAM ICS – LISc

• Committee Chair - if interested, please contact Dean Aune.

Old Business
• Approval of April minutes
  ○ Motion to Approve. Vote: 6 in Favor; 0 Opposed; 10 Abstentions
  ○ Dean Aune will check with former members of the Graduate Council in attendance at the April 2019 meeting for their vote.
  ○ There were five members who completed their term in Spring 2019 and were present at the April meeting. All five of those members voted in favor to approve the minutes.

New Business
• Language Proficiency Requirements - Ivy Mu, International partnerships coordinator. Created Summer Up program for interested undergraduates from Chinese partner institutions to spend time on campus for a brief experience in academic preparation at UHM. The program is in collaboration with Outreach College and East-West Center for housing.
  ○ Handout provided - suggestion to share this document with Graduate Chairs. It’s important for them to ensure equivalence between TOEFL and IELTS scores.
  ○ Concern RE: access to TOEFL and/or IELTS in some geographic regions. There are four modules that are part of IELTS. Scoring is based on a 0-9 scale.
Ensure equivalent scores are presented between TOEFL and IELTS for admission requirements. There are programs that have minimum scores that are not equivalent for both exams. Additionally, many programs refer applicants to the Graduate Division minimum for TOEFL and IELTS. There is a referral loop between programs and the Graduate Division webpage.

In general, a score of 60 on TOEFL or 6.0 on IELTS is very low for admission.

It would be helpful for students to have a target that makes sense for programs. Below 6.0 IELTS is determined to be ineligible for admission.

There was a question and some discussion around whether the exempt level for GAs could be adjusted? Specifically, would Graduate Division consider lowering the required TOEFL and IELTS score for GAs to be considered exempt? The example of prospective GAs entering with a TOEFL just below the required score of 100 (e.g., 96) With the range provided between TOEFL and IELTS scores, could a lower threshold for TOEFL be used and still have it be equivalent with the IELTS minimum of 7.0 to be exempt?

It was suggested that a conversation would be helpful between Graduate Division in ELI to determine feasibility and appropriate scores for exemptions.

There was a question about the paper-based TOEFL. This option is only available for applicants in countries without access to the Internet. However, very few use the paper version. Additionally, Graduate Division no longer accepts this version of the exam.

The Graduate Grievance Committee for a Step 3 Appeal process is to be convened. Members of this committee cannot be from programs within the College of A&H.

Adjourned: 10:10 AM
Next Meeting: October 22, 2019