
OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Alarie

ABSENT: Steven Clouse, Elke Feese

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 7, June 15, and June 17, 2009 meetings of the Administrative Board of the Graduate School.

   The minutes of the May 7, June 15, and June 17, 2009 meetings of the Administrative Board of the Graduate School were approved.

2. Announcements

   New members to the Administrative Board were introduced.

   Dr. Hodge announced that Preparing Future Leaders has a new lineup of workshops and seminars. Workshops began August 26 and will continue through November. Registration is required.

   Dr. Hodge announced that the Fall meeting for the Directors of Graduate Programs & Graduate Secretaries will be held on Tuesday, October 6 from 10-12 and Wednesday, October 7 from 1-3 in Williams Hall, 2405.
Dr. Hodge announced that the Program Development web page has been updated to reflect the recent changes to the Regulations for Academic Planning and Evaluation. He indicated that there were new appendices and that there will be FAQs added to clarify the process in completing those appendices.

Several Board Members brought up the recent pause in the review of new programs by UNC-GA. At this time, there was no information as to when UNC-GA would begin to review new programs and it was noted that there is a substantial backlog.

Dr. Hodge announced that The Graduate School is working on the web list of Board Members and will have it updated shortly.

3. Enrollment Update

Dr. Larick reported a record enrollment for Fall 2009. He noted that the majority of that enrollment are continuing students and there is a shortfall on new student enrollment. He believes the shortfall is due to the lack of resources to offer new students. He indicated that he is concerned this trend could continue in Fall 2010.

4. Update on recent University Graduate Student Association (UGSA) Activities

There was no update due to the absence of the UGSA representative.

5. Special Request: Posthumous Degree

The request to bestow a posthumous degree on a deceased student was unanimously approved.

6. New Courses Removed from the June 15, 2009 Virtual Meeting Agenda:

BEC 532 – Biologic Processing Science
Tabled

ECI 512 – Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning (Tabled from the 2/12/09 Meeting)
Approved with revisions

NTR/FM 790 – Advanced Feed Formulation
Approved with revision

7. New Courses:

ELP 753 – Data Based Decision Making for School Administrators
8. Discussion Items:

f. Time Limit for Thesis Submission  OIS has asked us to consider establishing time limits for turning in the final thesis/dissertation after the defense. Some international students (and perhaps PI's as well) are gaming the system by postponing final thesis submission by as much as a whole semester. Any rules we invoke would have to apply equally to both international and US citizens alike. We currently have no rules.

Several issues were raised in regard to time limit for thesis submission.

1. Backlog of students at graduation checkout. The first issue is that students who are diligently trying to finish the process with the Graduate School's Thesis Coordinator get stuck in a logjam of students from the previous semester who haven’t submitted their final Electronic Thesis/Dissertation (ETD) in a timely manner.

2. GSSP is adversely affected. International students are postponing the final submission of their ETD to extend their stay in the U.S. an additional semester, often requesting GSSP exceptions.

3. Extension of VISA for International Students. Student VISA must be extended for students who do not finish within the parameters of their issued VISA. The postponement of the submission of the project to conduct activities that are not related to degree completion poses legal issues for the Office of International Services

The proposal that was suggested to address some of the above issues was to impose a deadline of census day as the date to turn in the final ETD or the student must register. Board members will discuss these issues and the resolution with their college committee.

h. Transfer Credits from Foreign Institutions We currently require a "B" grade to transfer any course from another institution, regardless of the grading culture in place at that institution. While most foreign institutions furnish conversions from their grades to "US grades", that does not take into account differences in grading culture. While we (and most US institutions) require a minimum 3.0 average to graduate from a graduate program, most European institutions require a lower
average for graduation. Emily Burnett of the Study Abroad office has obtained the minimum graduation average required by two institutions that our graduate students normally attend. Copenhagen Business School requires a minimum average of 2. The conversion to US grades is 12= A; 10= A-/B+; 7= B; 4= C+; 2= C; 0= F; -3= F. The Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration requires a minimum average of 4. Their scale converts as 1=A; 2=B+/B; 3=B-/C+; 4=C; 5=F.

Board members discussed this issue and felt that using the above formula as a universal scale is not feasible. But there was a consensus that students wishing to transfer credits from an institution that uses a grading system (and culture) different from that at NCSU must, with the help of the Study Abroad Office, provide a letter to the Graduate School establishing the minimum average grade required for graduation from that institution. Courses with grades below that established minimum will not be allowed to transfer. Board members will discuss with their respective college committees and give feedback at the next meeting.

9. **Next scheduled meeting:**
   September 10, 2009
   10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
   Scott Hall, Room 216