

**Graduate Council
Minutes
February 7, 2018
KC 401**

Present: Nancy Ballard, Tridib Bandyopadhyay, Darren Crovitz, Tom Doleys, Tristan Glenn, Juanne Green, Tony Grooms, Jerry Herbel, Heather Hermanson, Rebecca Hill, Linda Johnston, Lisa Kastello, Lei Li, Brandon Lundy, Gwen McAlpine, Erin McGerald, Cherilyn McLester, Richard Mosholder, Tanya Mosley, Sherry Ni, Metin Oguzmert, Paola Spoletini, Linda Stewart, Michael Van Dyke, Maureen Wilson

Call to order at 2:05pm

1. Ron Day covered some changes coming to financial aid (discussion points attached). Questions included:
 - a. How can we do substitutions up front to avoid student's not being covered for aid for a substituted course? David will work with Registrars office to find out if they plan any new processes as this is a university wide issue, not just graduate.
 - b. What about thesis/dissertation hours, how are other schools handling this?
 - c. What about IP grades and their interaction with financial aid?
2. David Baugher shared the proposed changes to the Accelerated Bachelors Masters (ABM) program with the group (see attached). Feedback included:
 - a. Some programs can partner with many programs, seems like too much work to set a curriculum plan for any possible partner.
 - b. Curriculum maps sound good, but scheduling from one semester to the next may determine the courses that students take.
3. Jennifer Purcell led a discussion of "How can The Graduate College better support you as a program coordinator/director? What resources do you need to sustain and improve the program(s) you oversee?" Feedback included:
 - a. Timing of GRA distribution
 - b. Advertising in school newspapers
 - c. Research money for students
 - d. Compensation for working with graduate students and/or thesis/dissertation supervision
 - e. A way to share best practices
 - f. Professional advisors/EAB-SSC
 - g. Onboarding as a graduate program director/coordinator
 - h. Need an FAQ and Who To Contact page

Adjournment at 3:00pm

Ron Day Discussion:

1. Can financial aid pay for a course which does not count toward the student's degree completion requirements?
 - a. If a student is enrolled in courses that do not count toward his or her degree, certificate, or other recognized credential, they cannot be used to determine enrollment status. (Federal Handbook, Vol. 1, Chapter 1, page 20).
 - i. The student will be charged according to enrollment – but federal aid cannot count that course toward determining eligibility, i.e., 6 hours – 3 hours doesn't count. The student is charged for 6 – but financial aid is based on 3 – thus the student is not eligible for student loans.

2. How will this be tracked?
 - a. Beginning Fall 2018, Degree Works will track whether the course counts toward the program of study.
 - i. This process will be "tested" during the summer of 2018 – and will be implemented for fall 2018
 - ii. Potentially impacting many, many students. We currently have no way of meeting this federal mandate.

3. What are the ramifications of the proposed Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA)?
 - i. Graduate students will be impacted:
 - ii. TEACH Grant will no longer be available
 - iii. Grad PLUS goes away
 - iv. Grad students may not receive Federal Work-Study
 - v. Annual loan amount allowed for any graduate student would be \$28,500 (fall, spring, summer)
 - vi. A cap will now occur for graduate students of \$150,000
 1. Currently – students may borrow \$138,500 + unlimited Grad PLUS.
 2. We have many graduate students who exceed \$150,000 in debt – MANY

Proposed Revisions to ABM

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Proposed Revisions to ABM

- Current Issues to Address
- Proposed New Program
- Transition and Timeline
- Benefits

Current Issues to Address

- Number of hours of “Dual Credit”
 - SACCS: 150 Unique Hours (min 120 undergrad plus min 30 graduate)
 - SACCS: suggests using an existing policy such as transfer credit, which for KSU is 25% of grad degree

Current Issues to Address

- Students led to believe they are full graduate students.
 - Students are NOT full graduate students and cannot be since they do not yet have their bachelors degree.

Current Issues to Address

- Tuition and Financial Aid
 - Remain undergrad so must be charged undergrad tuition allowing undergrad aid to continue.
 - For Financial Aid to cover grad courses substitutions (Dual Credit form) must be on file.

Current Issues to Address

- Ad hoc nature of Dual Credit
 - Students are entering ABM late in their program and directors/advisors are approving Dual Credit for courses that often have little to do with the undergrad.

Proposed New Program

- Grad program partners with a specific undergrad program(s) and creates a curriculum map for students to follow from beginning of bachelors to end of masters.
- Curriculum map approved by UPCC and GPCC and put in catalog as an approved program.
- Can have as many partner programs is appropriate.

Proposed New Program

- Students follow curriculum as mapped out in catalog.
- Students applying to program are not seen as being a grad student until bachelors degree granted.
- Students would formally apply to graduate degree program and be reviewed like any other student.
- Participation in grad courses prior to acceptance in a grad program does not guarantee grad program acceptance.

Proposed New Program

- Faculty (grad and undergrad together) will propose the following:
 - How many and which grad courses will count as Dual Credit.
 - Sequencing of courses, including grad courses.
 - The appropriate time for student to declare/apply they are following program. (We suggest somewhere around beginning of Junior year).
 - The advantage of the specific pairing of undergrad/grad program.
- Student acceptance into program would involve approval from undergrad and grad program as well as The Graduate College.
- GPA requirement will be 3.50. Program faculty can propose a different GPA with justification and approval from UPCC and GPCC.
- The Graduate College will still need to manually register the student for their graduate courses since they remain undergrad students.

Transition and Timeline

- AY 2019 (Fall 2018/Spring 2019) submit proposed program maps through UPCC and GPCC for approval.
- Continue enrolling in current program through Spring 2019.
- Fall 2019 only enroll through new program.

Benefits

- Dual Credit courses are identified and justified, and program maps are approved by curricular bodies, addressing SACS concerns.
- Student remains undergrad until bachelors degree is granted.
- Programs can recruit as early as high school to show students how they can quickly progress through bachelors to completion of masters.

Naming

- Would like to rename program to show distinction from “old” ABM.
- Suggestions:
 - “U2G Program” – Undergrad to Graduate Program
 - “GPP” – Graduate Pipeline Program
 - Others?