

GRADUATE COUNCIL
Minutes
Thursday, March 26, 2009
3:30 p.m., Alderman 215

Council Members Attending: Drs. Berliner, Furia, Waxman, Kelley, Kinsey, Vetter, McNamee, MacKain, Howe, Thomas, Smith, and Kuiper. Ex-officio attending: Ms. Sue Cody and Dr. McKinney. Dean Roer presided.

I. Approval of the minutes of February 26, 2009: The minutes of the February 26, 2009 meeting were approved.

II. New Business

A. Policy and Planning Committee

International Student admission policy revision was approved to read:

Minimum admission criteria for international students

Given that a number of 3-year degrees awarded by European universities (pursuant to the “Bologna Process”) are considered to be equivalent to 4-year degrees, *The Graduate School will determine equivalency of international baccalaureate degrees.* For example, the Graduate School will accept three-year Bologna Process bachelor-level degrees as a legitimate basis for admission to graduate status at UNC Wilmington. This policy pertains to applicants to UNCW academic and professional master's programs, doctoral programs, and combined master's and doctoral programs. Some European institutions may continue to offer bachelor-level degrees requiring more than three years of study, which we will, of course, continue to accept. This policy relates to minimum requirements. Programs may wish to develop more restrictive standards.

This change should be reflected in the text on p. 69 of the Graduate Catalogue. (Eliminate the phrase “based on a four-year program of study” and substitute “in accordance with Graduate School policy”...):

GENERAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

For admission to a graduate degree program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the applicant must (1) hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university in this country or its equivalent in a foreign institution in accordance with Graduate School policy (http://uncw.edu/grad_info/policies.htm)

B. Program and Curriculum Committee

Council approved all three of the following proposals.

1. A new course in Environmental Studies, EVS 577 Environmental Site assessment. The course description looks good, as does the accompanying course syllabus. Under course description, second sentence should begin with capitalized “e.”
2. The deletion of SPN 598 Internship from the M.A. in Spanish, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The course doesn’t change a degree requirement, having been removed from a list of electives for the MA and Certificate in Hispanic Studies. It should be removed from the MALS degree and M.Ed. also.
3. IMBA curriculum proposal is to increase the program hours from 30 to 36 by requiring students to take 6 hours of IMB 594, the capstone course. This change would match UNCW’s program with European partner schools. This change is recommended by the SACS review team, indicating that UNCW needed to formalize the equivalency with the partners in the international MBA program.

III. Old Business

Proposed addition to Graduation/Retention Policy was approved to read (additions in red):

RETENTION POLICY

Three grades of C, one grade of F, or one grade of U (e.g. thesis/dissertation) results in dismissal from the graduate program. Further, if a student falls below a 3.0 GPA at any time, he or she goes on academic probation and has either three subsequent courses or nine hours to bring the GPA up to at least a 3.0. In addition, a student must have at least a 3.0 GPA in order to begin any program specific comprehensive examination and/or thesis work.

RETENTION BY APPEAL

Students who have been dismissed from the graduate program and readmitted by special action of the Graduate School shall have their subsequent retention policy determined individually by the dean. **In cases where a student is readmitted by such special action, the grades of C, F or U that existed at the time of readmission will not be grounds for ineligibility for graduation as defined in the policy on GRADUATION below.**

GRADUATION

A student must have no less than a 3.0 GPA for all graduate-level courses. Three grades of C, one grade of F, or one grade of U (e.g. thesis/dissertation) results in ineligibility for graduation. Grades of A,B,C,F,S,U and W are permanent grades and can be changed only by the instructor with the approval of the appropriate dean in cases of arithmetical or clerical error or as a result of protest of grade.

Two Graduate Research Faculty exceptions: Drs. Steve Ross and Wilson Freshwater

Both research faculty members were approved to chair MS in Marine Science thesis committees.

IV. Adjournment

Future Graduate Council Meetings for 2008-2009:

April 23, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Westside Hall Conference Room