

MINUTES OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
November 10, 2015
Fidel Center – Collaboration Room – Graduate Office
3:45 P.M.

Call to order:

The Graduate Council Meeting was called to order at 3:45 P.M. on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 in Fidel Center – Collaboration Room – Graduate Studies. Members present: Lorie Liebrock, Chair, Snezna Rogelj, Penny Boston, Navid Mojtabai, Tom Engler, Mark Samuels, Michelle Creech-Eakman, Ivan Avramidi, Frank Reinow, Dongwan Shin, Aly El Osery, Steve Simpson, Jeff Altig, Nikolai Kalugin. Ex-officio: Sara Grijalva, William Stone, Kevin Wedeward, Bryan Watson.

The Chair called for approval of minutes of the October 13, 2015 meeting. Creech-Eakman made the motion to approve, Reinow seconded the motion, all approved and the motion passed.

Announcements:

Thesis/Dissertation Boot Camp- *Simpson*

Simpson announced that Thesis/Dissertation Boot Camp will be held from January 11-15, 2016. Registration is now open. Information is available from Dr. Simpson or the Writing Center.

No Jan/Feb Council Meetings- *Liebrock*

Liebrock announced that there will not be Graduate Council meetings in January or February due to winter break and Graduate Education Day on February 9.

Program Changes- *Liebrock*

Liebrock let the council know that departments should submit any Program Changes by December 1 for the next Graduate Council Meeting. Changes not submitted by December 1 will have to wait until March and *may* not be able to make it into the 2016-2017 catalog.

Old Business:

iThenticate Certification- *Liebrock*

The Academic Advisor iThenticate Certification has been posted under 'Forms' on both the Current Graduate Students website and the CGS Faculty and Staff Information website. Liebrock thanked the Council for their support at Faculty Senate.

New Business:

Defense Report and 1 credit registration- *Liebrock*

Liebrock stated that the new Defense Report form will be posted on the CGS website this week. The form includes a place for the Research Advisor to indicate approval of the successfully defended student registering for one credit to complete changes to their thesis or dissertation. Alternatively, graduate committee reports may be submitted with the addition of whether or not the committee approves of the student registering for just one credit as a full time student to complete corrections for one semester only after the defense report is delivered to the CGS. Full-time registration for one credit is allowed *only one time*, after the student has successfully defended and the defense report (listing major corrections required by the committee) has been delivered to the CGS, with the permission of the committee.

Nominations for Graduate Education Day-*Liebrock*

Liebrock requested that departments nominate students for Graduate Education Day by December 1, so that a vote can be taken at December's Council meeting. Nominations should include the student's name, an abstract of their research, and their research's impact on New Mexico. Nominations should be emailed to graduate@nmt.edu no later than December 1.

Eight students will present posters at Graduate Education Day on February 9, 2016. The Day will include a press conference, and Liebrock invited Deans Stone and Wedeward to attend. Secretary Damron, Governor Martinez, and President Lopez will attend. Liebrock asked all Chairs to invite employers to attend as well.

Liebrock will be attending the Council of University Presidents meeting this month to discuss support for requesting additional graduate stipends from the legislature at Graduate Education Day.

MS Specialization Nomenclature- *Liebrock*

Liebrock stated the need for consistency in naming of specializations within Masters Degrees. The changes are as follows:

Master of Science in Chemistry with **Specialization in** Biochemistry ~~Option~~

Master of Science in Computer Science with **Specialization in** Information Technology ~~Option~~

Master of Science in Hydrology with ~~Option~~ **Specialization in** Environmental Geofluids

Master of Science in Hydrology with ~~Option~~ **Specialization in** Petroleum Geofluids

Master of Science in Physics with ~~Specialty~~ **Specialization in** Instrumentation

Liebrock made the motion to approve the name changes. Creech-Eakman seconded the motion; the changes were approved.

Committee Formation in the Graduate Handbook- *Boston*

Boston brought the wording in the Graduate Handbook regarding Graduate Committee formation to Liebrock's attention, and the fact that it differs from the wording in the Catalog. Liebrock stated that she would fix the wording to match the Catalog.

One Poor Grade Preventing Graduation- *Mojtabai*

Mojtabai brought up the issue that one grade of a C- or below can prevent a graduate student with otherwise good grades from graduating. Liebrock stated that this is due to a long-standing policy designed to uphold high standards. The student can retake the same class, or a class that is deemed by the student's committee to be similar in rigor and content, if the original class is not offered again. The Grade Extension Agreement is another option for a student who needs extra time to improve a grade. The length of time allowed is at the discretion of the instructor. No action was taken.

Student Questions and Concerns: (GSA Representative) – *Bryan Watson*

Bryan had several announcements:

1. Travel Grant deadline for spring travel from January 1 to June 30 is Friday, November 13 at 11:59 pm. Megan will send an email out to graduate students.
2. Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Friday at the Bodega Burger Company. Faculty and graduate students and their families are invited.
3. The topic of the Spring 2016 Interdisciplinary Research Symposium will be Biotechnology. The Symposium will be held in March, but the date has not been set.
4. Amendments to the GSA Constitution currently require Regents approval. An amendment to change the approval process is being written. Any amendment requires a majority vote of all graduate students, excluding Special Graduate Students.

Adjournment – The Dean made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40.