

Graduate Education Ad Hoc Committee Meeting  
March 30, 2007  
Room 301  
10am-12pm  
Recorders: Kay Gleghorn, Esther Lucey

## Minutes

(Note: These minutes were approved by the Graduate Education Ad Hoc Committee at the committee's April 19 committee meeting.)

Attendance: Alfredo Benavides, Katie Button, Joe Claudet, Steve Crooks, Roseanna Davidson, Heriberto Godina, Fred Hartmeister, Carole Janisch, Peggy Johnson, Sally McMillan (for Peggie Price), Sylvia Mendez-Morse, Roy Rodriguez, Sheryl Santos, Doug Simpson, Mary Runnels, Reese Todd, Jennifer Wilhelm

### **Dean Santos Remarks**

Dean Santos distributed 2 articles (Berliner and Richardson) as handouts to committee members. Dean Santos indicated these articles would inform today's discussions covering Ed.D./Ph.D. issues and educational graduate policy.

### **Agenda**

Dr. Claudet reported he completed an informal survey of other colleges on campus by contacting each Associate Dean of Research. Survey interviewees and findings were as follows:

Dr. Rob Stewart (Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences): Talked to Rob Stewart on Monday, 3/19/07: Dr. Stewart indicated that A&S research methods courses are specific to individual departments (i.e., biology students take research methods courses taught by biology professors; chemistry students take research methods courses taught by chemistry professors; etc.).

Dr. Karlene Hoo (Associate Vice President for Research and former Associate Dean of Research, College of Engineering): Talked to Karlene Hoo on Monday, 3/26/07: Dr. Hoo indicated that engineering research methods courses are specific to individual engineering departments (i.e., chemical engineering has specific common research methods courses that chemical engineering students take, etc.). In addition, after students take four or five "common" departmental-specific courses, they can then further specialize with more specialized departmental courses (as the individual student's research specialization area becomes more focused and more clearly delineated).

Dr. Sukant Misra (Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Associate Dean for Research, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources): Talked to Sukant Misra in College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) on Thursday,

March 29: Dr. Misra indicated that each of the six academic departments in CASNR has different research methods courses for their graduate students. Many of the content courses in the individual departments incorporate statistical techniques into the actual teaching of the courses. In addition, one of the six departments – the Agricultural Economics department – also has a special “research methodology” course that is not a research tools course. This course teaches departmental students about the overall “approach” to doing research in Agricultural Economics (i.e., how to formulate research questions, how to think about matching research analysis techniques with research questions, etc.).

Dr. Michael Parkinson, Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, College of Mass Communications: Talked with Dr. Parkinson on 3/29/07. Mass Communications has one Ph.D. degree that encompasses four departments (Ph.D. in Mass Communications). Students take a couple of common core courses, then are directed to select some advanced courses from a listing (that includes mathematics and educational psychology statistics courses). Mass Communication professors teach their own “Advanced Research” courses internally to their departments.

Human Sciences. Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Dr. Steve Harris, was not available for an interview.

Dr. Runnels noted that, in addition to mass communication students, students from several other departments and colleges throughout the university also take College of Education educational psychology courses.

### **Open Discussion**

Based on the updated handout of the common core courses, everyone agreed to the addition of EDSP 5349 Single-Subject Research Design in place of EPSY 5349 on the doctoral tools section.

Discussion was held about adding new courses such as meta-analysis and mixed methodology to the core and transfer courses from other venues. This is the list created by discussion:

- We want stronger dissertations.
- Breath, depth, scope
- Flexibility to transfer in courses from external universities and colleges
- Processes to get COE courses on approved list

Dr. Simpson’s ideas:

- Flexibility for advisors and students (even to go outside college to other disciplines, i.e., linguistics research; philosophy research; anthropology research)
- CORE — okay but need ways to include other courses on the list, there need to be ways to broaden the list
- COE has commonalities
- Definition of Foundations - different for each program

Dr. Runnels offered a structured list of what to focus on:

1. What is the list going to look like?

2. Another issue is transferring courses from other universities. We have a general, informal way of committee and advisor creating a fit, then the department chair and associate dean providing oversight; however, we need to formulize this in the handbook. Summary: Courses outside college, how to add to core, flexibility, and how to get new courses on the approved list. Traditionally, getting new courses on the approved list has been through convened meeting of the graduate faculty.

Dr. Runnels then proposed forming a subcommittee to do those things: prepare guidelines, make some decisions at this point. Six people volunteered to serve on this subcommittee: Drs. Runnels, Simpson, Janisch, Davidson, Wilhelm, and McMillan.

Dean Santos will contact Dr. Lan, Dr. Olivarez, and/or Shane Hammontree regarding a graduate student survey for graduate student input on core courses. Becky Davidson at the Graduate School requires exiting grad students to complete an online survey.

Discussion was then held regarding dissertations – the quality, the methodology, the research topics. A suggestion was made to review past dissertations to provide data on which to base future decisions.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, from 12-1pm. A report from the subcommittee will be presented and draft minutes will be reviewed.