

MINUTES
West Virginia University Graduate Council Meeting
Thursday ~ November 17, 2016
Cathedral Room - Mountainlair

A T T E N D E E S

UPDATE ATTENDANCE: Eugenia Pena-Yewtukhiw, Mary Ellen Koay, Robert Brock, , Steve Urbanski, , Michelle Sandrey, Evan MacCarthy , Jessica Deshler, Constina Charbonette, Michelle Costas, Sean McGowan, Joshua Weishart, Megan Dillow

Introductions

N E W B U S I N E S S A N D A G E N D A I T E M S

Review Minutes from the August 2016 Council Meeting

Motion was made to approve minutes without changes.

Motion approved.

Proposals

Intent to Plan:

Dual Enrollment in Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) and Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders (Key 733) - The Ph.D. degree program in Communication Sciences and Disorders provides a rigorous course of study along with mentored research and teaching experiences to enable students to become high-quality researchers and serve effectively as leaders in the discipline. Graduates of the program are prepared to assume careers as researchers and scholars at colleges, universities, hospitals, industrial settings, and research facilities. The program is not designed to provide an advanced clinical degree in either audiology or speech-language pathology. Rather, the Ph.D. degree will be conferred in recognition of the attainment of the highest academic excellence and productive scholarship. As doctoral programs are an integral step on a life-long journey of learning and scholarship, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders has established the Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences and Disorders to support students in developing knowledge, judgment, skills, and attitudes to facilitate their growth and learning throughout their careers as researchers, scholars, and teachers.

Motion was made to approve the Intent to Plan pending noted changes.

Motion was approved.

Program Changes:

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering MS and Ph.D. degrees (Keys 495, 509, 504, 515): The technical topic of “design” has been moved by mutual consent of the MAE faculty from the old Design, Dynamics, & Controls technical area to the old Solid Mechanics & Structures technical area, and these two areas have been renamed accordingly. In addition, the core graduate course lists have been revised in each technical area, so that instead of listing only two graduate core courses, each technical area now has three core courses. This makes it possible for the Department to require that all MAE graduate students who earn both their MS degree and their PhD degree in the same technical area within MAE must complete their two required core courses for their MS degree and their one required core course for their PhD degree in the same technical area. Also, the new alignment of our five technical areas is better matched with current faculty research interests.

Motion was made to approve the Program Change.

Motion approved.

Industrial Hygiene MS (Key 505): We are seeking to reduce course requirements and to create two options: "coursework only" and "thesis". These changes were "suggested" to us by the ABET reviewers and by the site visitors for our NIOSH training grant. The site visitors stated that while somewhat important those course were peripheral to industrial hygiene and added to the high burden of coursework. In addition, additional strengths were needed for future doctoral students. The most crucial goal is to increase the graduation rate by reducing our high course credit requirements. Currently, only half of our students graduate. Nearly every one finish course requirements but take a full time job and drop out of the program rather than another semester to do a problem report or thesis. Another important is encouraging more students to go on to our doctoral program.

Motion was made to reject the Program Change

Motion seconded and program change was rejected. The proposal will be sent back to the department with recommendations for revisions.

Review of the Academic and Professional Standards section of the Graduate Catalog.

Comments will be sent to Katherine by members of the council who noted concerns with the proposed changes.

Motion to adjourn meeting

Motion approved