
USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Committee:
Graduate Council: Meetings

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Graduate and Undergraduate Council

4-26-2012

Graduate Council Meeting : 2012 : 04 : 26

Graduate Council

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Minutes
Graduate Council USFSP
Thursday, April 26, 2012
Meeting Called to order at 2:03pm

Members Present: Tina Neville – Chair, Donna Knudsen (Ex-Officio), Lisa Starks-Estes, Kim Stoddard, Veronica Carroll (Graduate Student Member), Kate Barker

1. Discussion of Environmental Science and Policy

- Henry Alegria was on call for questions, however, the Council felt all questions had been answered in the revised proposal.

Revised proposal:

Addresses concerns over original capstone project which seemed more like an undergraduate project. Council recommended to ESP that they should consider a final project with the rigor of having committee, although the project did not have to entail original research like an M.S. thesis.

- ESP feels that it could be difficult to get a committee for each student, proposing using a major professor and the department chair for the project, and, because of that format and the possibility of group projects, the program feels that the comprehensive exam is important. Lisa Starks-Estes agreed that, with certain programs, it is important to keep a comprehensive exam. Donna Knudsen commented that if in the future they were able to build up the faculty they could reconsider comps at a later date. Same comps for everybody but drawing on core courses.
- The Council was satisfied with the explanation Dr. Noonan gave of MA vs. MS. As long as there are comparable programs out there, (the ones Dr. Noonan found were major universities with mix of science and policy), and as long as there is precedence for it

2. Approval of two main items

- Motion to approve two main items for MA in Environmental Science and Policy: 1) addition of a non-thesis option and 2) change the comp exam format for the current MS Thesis track program to a proposal defense. Kim Stoddard moved to accept both items, Kate Barker seconded, unanimously approved

3. Approval of minutes

Kim Stoddard moved to approve minutes, Lisa Starks-Estes seconded, unanimously approved

4. Additional information items

- Information item - Kim Stoddard announced – the MA in Elementary Education with Curriculum and Literacy emphasis has been on the books and has been approved before but has not been accepting applicants for some time. They will once again begin admitting students. Ask Deanna Michael if you have any questions
- Donna Knudsen reminded the Council that we will need to look over the catalog in the summer and provide an email vote to accept.
- Lisa Starks-Estes asked about using the language “major professor,” clarifying that, in the MLA interdisciplinary track, the “major professor” is actually the Chair. Donna Knudsen confirmed that the “major professor” language was taken from Tampa programs and not necessarily used in all programs here.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm