

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2016
York Room

Attendees: Lew Chakrin, Brian Chinni (Chairman), Eric Daffron, Anthony Dovi, Michele Dunn, Julie Good, Tim Landers (Secretary), Aaron Lorenz, Ann Marie Moreno, Karen Norton (ASB guest), Emma Rainforth, Chris Romano, Rich Russo, Eddie Saiff, and Ashwani Visishth

Chairman Chinni opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and introduced the following agenda:

- Review and approval of the 2/11/16 meeting minutes (T. Landers)
- Proposed changes to Academic Affairs Procedure 300-FF "Transferring Graduate Credit."
- Other Business

1. Approval of the Minutes

After a review of the February minutes, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was seconded by A. Lorenz and unanimously approved.

2. Proposed changes to Academic Affairs Procedure 300-FF

Dean Chakrin and K. Norton presented the survey results of seventy-five accounting major and minors where 94% of the respondents said they were either extremely likely or somewhat likely to enroll in the Ramapo's MS in Accounting. Asked to identify the most attractive features, 92% chose the CPA prep courses, 72% selected the increase in accounting knowledge and 68% cited the ability to begin in their senior year. The survey supports the anecdotal evidence that was presented at the Council's February meeting.

L. Chakrin noted that the ability to start in the senior year is a benefit to ASB's recruiting and retention efforts. C. Romano added that demand has never been higher for 4+1 programs from 18 year-olds.

Chakrin opened the discussion on credit sharing, aka double counting of courses, between graduate and undergraduate programs by noting that Montclair's 5-Year BS/MS in Accounting permits up to three courses or nine graduate credits to be applied to an undergraduate major. Likewise, Ramapo's Bioinformatics major permits students to take up to nine credits of graduate coursework at Rutgers and apply them towards the required undergraduate electives at Ramapo. Chakrin pointed out that the existing cross-listing policy (300-I), which permits cross listing between graduate and undergraduate programs, is at odds with an older VPAA Policy regarding the double counting of credits. The VPAA Policy states that graduate program Directors may "transfer" dual listed courses to fulfill program requirements while the 300-I policy states that "a student will receive credit only once for taking a cross-listed course."

E. Daffron explained that the cross-listing policy was designed for a different purpose since 4+1 programs didn't exist at the time of its passage. However, in consultation with the Provost there is agreement on the need for such a policy at Ramapo. Daffron reminded the Committee of NJ's minimum credit requirements for an undergraduate and graduate degrees are 120 and 30 respectively.

M. Dunn said double counting is common at many institutions but noted that “transfer” is not the right terminology to explain the mechanics of double counting. By simply eliminating the transfer credit policy, Romano said it would automatically generate a graduate and an undergraduate transcript. In summarizing the discussion, Daffron agreed to draft a new policy permitting the cross listing and double counting of credits. The current language regarding the transfer of graduate credit in “Procedure Part 4” will remain unchanged while “Part 5” will be redrafted. The proposal must go through ARC and the Dean & Provost’s Councils for approval.

A. Moreno and A. Lorenz indicated that the issue is less relevant to the MSW program given the amount of required student fieldwork as well as the fact that the accreditation body does not currently permit the practice.

Romano suggested that rather than requiring two or three separate applications and fees for non-matric and BS/MS students, the College can be more selective upfront and accept students wishing to go straight thru the five-year program. Those deciding in their junior year would need to apply separately for acceptance into the Master’s program. M. Dunn agreed to work with enrollment management on the mechanics.

The motion to move forward with a policy permitting the cross-listing and double-counting of courses between graduate and undergraduate programs was seconded by A. Lorenz and unanimously approved by the Council.

3. Other Business

C. Romano notified the Council that as of March 1st, graduate applications for the fall are running 93% ahead of plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 14th at 10:00 am. The meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

Minutes submitted by Tim Landers