

Graduate Council
December 09, 2014
CBS Deans Conference Room
11:30-1:30

I. Welcome 11:45

Prayer – Stephen Johnson

Announcements -

Dana McMichael is transitioning to OSU. Acknowledge her service on the council. Lang & Lit recommends Bill Carroll sit on council beginning in January.

Others?

KM – Hope's surgery tomorrow.

GB – Peace on Earth at Duncam Center Thursday.

Minutes 11.11.14

II. MSSW Admission Requirements - Wayne Paris presented

GPA and personal statement not adequate to access a student. Include senior level writing assignment from undergrad. Finding GPAs not created equal. Sample serves 2 purposes 1) quality & 2) rigor from individual dept.

BSW Students – Practicum Assessment second issue Masters and Social Work requires to measure competencies, evaluation of field work and what's to be expected practicum wise.

Camp- vast majority of applicants out of college?

Paris – no

Camp – wondering about those who don't have

Paris – couldn't use

SJ – same might be true for student completing BSW 10 years ago.

Paris – time limit on how long ago degree awarded. 6 years maximum.

SJ – Regarding the question Camp raises, mid- career student, would they see requirement and not bother applying

Paris – discussion on impediments yes sees as such. Many programs require but don't know if they ask for writing sample. One caveat, since we are one of few that require Master's Thesis, you have to want to come to ACU. Students use Thesis for later degrees. Valid question.

Baggs – If they wanted to apply would you give them an exception on that?

Paris – we could or could expand on personal statement. Inclination would be to waive but faculty decision.

SJ – Student would request

Paris – would talk to them as candidates. I have contact with students prior to application

Neill – GRE requirement?

Paris – no, only International and students under 3.0. We are specific about 3.0. That's quality of work expected.

SJ- are there similar admission policies in other programs.

Lemley – writing sample not graded?

Cardot – asking for marked copy? graded?

Paris – Marked

Cardot – more specific

Paris – define graded as marked

Cardot, Camp – graded, returned with feedback

SJ- if that is what you want

Goff – are you also evaluating samples according to rubric? Feedback

Paris – yes, evaluate from standardized

Lemley – go back to professor

Paris – to keep from being complex kind of student I want and type of quality necessary.

Baggs – I see graded paper part as integrity rather than grade

Lemley – worry about that with students that I don't know

Paris – undergrad students routinely come and ask for help. When you look at personal statements then writing samples there's a huge gap.

Baggs – look at GRE writing score

Paris – something to think about

SJ – rationale for not using GRE

Paris -Not consistent enough measure of skill

SJ – other questions or comments

AH – appropriate to say “if available” or would it lead to all not having one.

Paris – can't cover every eventuality. 10 years or more not going to have a paper

Camp – your sense most applicants could produce

Paris – yes

Maxwell – other options for the older student

Paris – covers most of our applicants, may look at in a few years

SJ- would be concerned that challenges with students that this creates another barrier to student who would consider ACU may move on. Appreciate the care you want to take to find right students. Wonder about student who would as part of being in your program rise to meet those expectations. Does assume a certain pool of applicants. Those are my reservations.

Paris – rationale is simply to reduce those likely to drop out. Better way of screening for academic ability. From my experience would be admitting students who potentially couldn't cut it.

SJ – any discussion on potential impact on enrollment?

Paris – never came up but do address the issue of rigor of which we admit students.

AH- all required thesis?

Paris - Yes

Neill – size of program?

Paris – 39

Neill optimal?

Paris no, 55

Then you look at large number of thesis students. Realistically, 50. Without Thesis, 60 not a problem.

SJ –mentioned earlier that programs do not require Thesis

Paris – less than 5% nationally require Thesis, then goes to grad school for approval. Huge expectation for students.

SJ – for me having a sense of nature of program as pertains to writing. What makes you distinctive, part of competitive landscape.

Hammack – possibility of pre-course? Leveling course?

Paris – option of admitting on probation

Hammack – through English

Paris – never considered that

Baggs – if writing is that important not sure it should be an exception. Write themed paper with proctor signing off and get back

Cardot – add “or suitable substitute”

Paris – not be opposed to that

Lemley – understand where you are, my course is an indicator of handling thesis

Paris – prejudice around writing..good writing skills make you a good clinician, biased I have

SJ – any further discussion?

Cardot – change wording motion to accept with insertion of phrase 1) acceptable or alternative

2) graded and returned with feedback senior level assignment

“After work an acceptable alternative”

Camp – 2nd fine line in requirement of thesis implies certain assumption might add another barrier

SJ – agree, my reservation

Paris- point I originally made. GPA. Came from program that lacked rigor. Never had anyone look at my papers like that, etc. also looking at what level they’re required to work

Sensing – reservation related to apps?

SJ – on one level my interest in MSSW on another level a student who hasn’t been challenged doesn’t mean not capable. Does this allow us to continue to do our mission well.

Lemley – I can often see potential in writing. Assume you’re not saying if not A level work you would turn down.

Paris – right

SJ – further discussion

Restated motion

All favor – everyone

Paris – abstain

Motion passes

III. **GST** – Tim Sensing presented

BIBL 630 – New Course Application

Designed to fit MGS, primarily online program.

To cover biblical text. Online version of old/new testament theology in one course. Allows MAGS to be approved.

Question-

Neill – name of degree?

Sensing – Master Arts in Global Service. Teach out process completed in May for AMI.

BIBL 650 – New Course Application

Women in New Testament. 20 students. Popular- bring into catalog as continued course. Every other year course.

Curricular Degree Plan Change – clarification for students, minor description change. Feedback from alumni. Course title change/description.

Title change – Preaching to contemporary needs.

Comments or questions

First two – term changes

Don’t want to offer online and face to face in same term.

Cardot – likely to set up expectation to say offered every fall and every spring?

TS – it will be..makes a nuisance. Would like to offer option of eliminate what term course offered

Bradon – catalog

Cardot when bringing online programs in creating greater problem online this way, face to face?

Sensing – do away with

SJ – don't know how to address. What to include in catalog and how. Inquire with Dr. Lewis

Cardot – maybe requirement from SACS about accuracy of catalogs or not

BO – not required but a tool for students to plan out semester

SJ – I wouldn't want program director to make decisions about catalog instead of other way

Note to inquire with Provost office

Sensing – not a tightly sequenced program.

SJ – 610 & 620 same thing?

Sensing – yes

SJ – council feedback to GST? Any input for TS?

Thank you.

SJ carryover about low grade policy. Draft something for council to come back to. J. Goff working on draft to bring back in new year as discussion item. No immediate urgency but will help us respond to students.

Anything further?

Sensing – study abroad. Mindy Thompson will be representing GST.

Thank you.

Meeting adjourned 12:38

Attendees

Wayne Paris

Lauren Lemley

Karen Maxwell

Terry Baggs

Jaime Goff

John Neill

Becky Hammack

Andrew Huddleston

Tim Sensing

Jon Camp

Joe Cardot

Garry Bailey

Bradon Owens

Jessica Carnes

Stephen Johnson

Joy Powers