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Minutes
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee
April 13, 2018
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Members in Attendance: R. Wood, A. Miller, A. Rellergert, A. Trees, C. Werner, H. Ardizzone, J. Barber, J. Garcia-Martinez, J. Fu, L. McLaughlin, N. Reed, S. Jayaram, S. Winton, J. Curley, L. Cash, J. Nichols, D. Daly (sub for J. Martin)

Guests in Attendance: J. Haugen, Anneke Bart, L. Huelman

Call to Order: R. Wood called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2018 meeting: Motion was made to approve the March 9, 2018 minutes as written. Minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business:

A. <u>IELA Test:</u> Anneke Bart and Lisieux Huelman were present to discuss the IELA Test. The IELA (INTO English Language Assessment) is an English proficiency test created and assessed by Cambridge English Language Assessment for INTO. The test naturally aligns with the IELTS, which is also created and assessed by Cambridge English Language Assessment. They recommend that the IELA be accepted as a standard for Direct Entry for Saint Louis University. The cut scores are based on the concordance with the IELTS. They recommend using sub scores to assure student readiness. The scores in writing and listening are important skills to consider in this setting. The writing score speaks to the ability to successfully complete class assignments. The listening score speaks to the ability to follow a lecture in the English language. Reading and speaking are also important, but the student is capable of more easily managing those skills. They are seeking the support of

GAAC on the proposed standards to satisfy the English Language proficiency requirement for International students. Anneke Bart is working on a scoring scale so that graduate program directors understand the scores and what they mean. There was a motion to approve and a second, and a vote took place.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

B. <u>Accelerated CPHSJ programs (informational)</u>: These are three different programs: an accelerated CCJ program, the accelerated UPD program, and an accelerated MPH program. This is just a five-year program where they start graduate classes in their Senior year of their Undergraduate program. There was some concern about these accelerated programs and how they are considered "accelerated".

C. <u>Program Change for the MPH Program (informational)</u>: Internally within Public Health, they have revised their curriculum. They have restructured their internal classes that you need to get the degree. Jay Haugen was concerned that these changes would be considered substantial and would therefore need to be voted on by GAAC. It hasn't altered any of the learning outcomes. Other programs have done this and it hasn't even been seen by GAAC. When an individual department is changing some things, generally GAAC doesn't have oversight over this. This is driven by external accreditation and trying to stay in line with the national standards. They're not doing anything

new, it's a lot of rearrangement and changing of course names, and it's not within our purview to tell them they can't do that, because it's up to their curricular committee. We can kick it back and ask them for a full proposal. It was decided that this is informational only and not a substantive change.

Jan Barber then brought up the issues with the current substantive change form. The definitions of what is a substantive change are so nebulous that nobody understands it. UAAC has a sub-committee to decide if something is a substantive change and then it is brought to the big committee for voting. Their form is being revisited, so we may be able to piggyback off what UAAC decides.

Old Business:

A. <u>Grad Catalog Policy Changes</u>: Because there is only one GAAC left, this is the last set of proposals that we will talk about this year, to give you time to go back to your constituents. The three new proposals are:

  a. <u>Graduation Requirements</u>: A $50 fee will be assessed for anyone who applies to graduate late. This is not to generate revenue; this is a tax for behavior modification. This is a print deadline for the program and the diploma. During the add/drop period you should be enrolled in the last classes to graduate. There will always be exceptions, and there will be an

appeal process in place for that. It costs them nothing to apply to graduate, so this is no burden on the student, it just is an attempt to stop the burden that is put on the candidacy specialists. Their work is on a cycle rotation so if a student doesn't apply to graduate it creates more work for them and delays the process for the students who did it on time. There was a motion to approve and a second, and a vote took place.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

b. Master's / Doctoral Coursework: The big change here is undergraduate coursework, numbered below 5000, cannot satisfy the requirements of a Master's Degree. Since we now have the accelerated program policy, there is no longer a need for instituting a limit to this. Therefore, since we just passed a policy on this, we no longer need the policy that you can only count 6 credits of graduate coursework towards an undergraduate degree. The dual listing/cross listing policy that was passed last year will apply for courses that overlap with undergraduate and graduate students. There was concern over the "exclusive of thesis" portion of this policy. The group seemed to think that thesis hours should count towards the 80% of credits that should be completed at SLU. There was discussion on the limit of 6 hours in Research Topics and other unstructured courses. This is designed to ensure that we

aren't providing graduate programs for which we don't have sufficient coursework. Therefore, it isn't something that you should be able to get around by changing the number of the course for an independent study. There should be better descriptions and titles for the 5970/5980 and the 6970/6980 courses. CourseLeaf will address this. This is something that will be brought back to the constituents for feedback and will be up for a vote in the May meeting.

<u>**Announcements**</u>:

A. Three-Minute Thesis – Thursday May 3rd, 2018 – students have until April 27 to register, please encourage your students to register.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.