April 18, 2017

 GRADUATE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

Amy Jo Coffey’s Proposal

Dr. Coffey presented a proposal for a graduate certificate in Audience Analytics. We currently offer an online Master’s degree in Audience Analytics. The certificate would require 13 credits made up of four courses—theory/behavior, toolkit introduction, a research methods course providing an overview of qualitative and quantitative research, and data storytelling and visualization.

Coffey will talk with Weigold to find out if on-campus students can take these classes.

Students should have statistics before starting the certificate or take it in the first semester, if they haven’t had it in the last five years.

The courses are in a recommended sequence but could be taken in another order. The certificate could be finished in two semesters.

Students do not have to be pursuing a Master’s degree to enter the certificate program.

GRE is not required for certificate admission, just a 3.0 GPA.

Treise moved to accept the certificate proposal, Ferguson seconded, it was approved unanimously.

Distance Classes for Summer

In addition to distance classes offered to Master’s students this summer, there are two courses open to doctoral students—Data Storytelling & Visualization and Audience Research Methods.

Feedback from Doctoral Students

Treise has met with doctoral students to obtain recommendations about the program. Some of the feedback included—

* Faculty members are approachable
* There is diversity in classes
* The classes are great
* There is a positive atmosphere
* The program is not competitive among the students

Some concerns included—

* Some domestic minority students feel isolated. A doctoral student will look into an organization or club for students to provide support.
* A methods class should be required in the second semester, a statistics class should be required, and a grants class should be offered, perhaps in the second fall term.
* There are a lot of students with emotional concerns
* Personal responsibility should be emphasized in Colloquium
* Students think advisors should suggest students take only one advance-level course per semester.

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* Students would like more suggestions for training to present at conferences.
* Everyone thinks the Think Tankard gatherings are a great idea.

Proposed PhD Degree Plan Changes

Treise asked if the three courses requested by doctoral students—methods, statistics, and grant writing—should be added to the PhD degree plan as required classes at this time. It was agreed that the suggestion should be taken to the graduate faculty meeting on Thursday. Spiker suggested a review of the doctoral degree plan, everyone agreed.

Quals Format

Three options were offered as possibilities for the qualifying exams—

1. As is
2. Take home exam
3. A three-part research paper (would equal three publications when completed)

Comments from the committee included—

* Current format is good because it assures that they study
* Adding in an open book component to the “as is” quals was suggested.
* A concern about cheating on a take home exam was mentioned.
* Perhaps allow the students to have a citation list available during the current format.
* A committee member liked the three paper idea but another said she would be more open to changing the dissertation to multiple papers rather than the qualifying exam.
* It was suggested that a lot more information would be needed before changing the process.
* A committee member said he learned so much from studying for the qualifying exam, that it pulled it all together for him.

Treise said she will check around campus and at peer institutions to see which process they use.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Spring 2017 Degree and Graduation with Distinction list

Treise distributed the Spring 2017 degree and Graduation with Distinction list for the approval of the committee. Kelleher moved to approve, Ostroff seconded, it was approved unanimously.

Agenda Items for Thursday’s Graduate Faculty Meeting

Treise asked if there were any additions to the agenda for the Spring Graduate Faculty meeting. There were none.

Treise thanked the committee members for their service this year.

ATTENDING: Babanikos, Ferguson, Goodman, Kelleher, Ostroff, Rodgers, Spiker, Treise, and Hedge.