Graduate Committee Minutes

January 11, 2016

UF PhD Programs and Policies Recommendations

Treise distributed a handout detailing policies and recommendations from a committee charged by the Provost to identify “best practices” for creating effective PhD programs. They have been reviewed by the Graduate School and the Provost’s Office.

Our College already has many of the policies in practice; in fact our program initiated some of the policies.

Treise will work with Katrice Graham to increase diversity in the PhD program. Molleda suggested highlighting diversity on our website because that is usually the first contact students have with our College. Walsh-Childers suggested contacting any professional organizations that have subgroups geared to minorities—perhaps advertising in any publications pertinent to the minority group.

Treise asked committee members to keep the handout for future discussion.

PhD Qualifying Exams

Committee members discussed the qualifying exam process and the possibility of changing the structure. Possible options to change the structure include—

* take home exam
* research papers
* exam on campus, allowed to bring notes
* four hour open-book (no internet) taken in College—most favored method.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

It was suggested that doctoral students write three papers to satisfy the requirement for the doctoral degree, rather than a dissertation. The item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Evaluating TAs

Treise reminded committee members that all TAs should be evaluated halfway through the semester so they can make necessary improvements and provide students with a better experience within the term.

Kelleher said he sends out a letter to students and follows that up with a survey. He then provides feedback to the TAs so they can make any necessary improvements.

Miscellaneous

Treise mentioned that she hasn’t yet found anyone to teach Julie Dodd’s MC Teaching class which is a requirement for doctoral students.

PhD files

Committee members reviews the application files for doctoral students.

The meeting was adjorned

ATTENDING: Treise, Babanikos, Goodman, Kelleher, Molleda, Ostroff, Selepak, Spiker, Walsh-Childers, and Hedge.