Graduate Committee Minutes

10-14-15

Update on MA program

Treise announced there is a Graduate Council meeting tomorrow, 10-15-15, and she expects a decision will be made regarding the new Master’s program/curriculum.

Discussion of certificate admissions criteria

The student who petitioned her admission decision into the fundraising certificate program provided letters of recommendation as requested by the committee.

It was suggested that in future petition cases, instead of just requesting LORs from the student, the chart to rank students should be provided to the letter writers. The ranking gives a more accurate prediction of the student’s success in the program than just the letter.

Ostroff made a **motion** to admit the student in question with the condition that she make a B or better in her first semester. Babanikos seconded and it passed unanimously.

In agreement with the Graduate School policy to admit 10% of students who are below the requirements, the Committee agreed to follow that policy. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis so any students who want to petition their decision will need to wait until the admission deadline.

Kelleher made a **motion** that students who want to appeal the admission decision will need to provide LORs with the skills chart. The maximum number of students who can be admitted below the minimum requirements will be 10% of the total number admitted to the program. Walsh-Childers seconded and it passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes from 9-16-15

Ferguson **moved** for approval of 9-16-15 minutes, Selepak seconded, passed unanimously.

Public Interest Communication distance proposal

Treise pointed out that in section #4B/Curriculum, the minimum score should be 156, not 152. It’s been corrected.

There were some concerns about lack of requested changes, Christiano was asked to track the changes in future updates.

1. The attendance at frank is still an issue.
   1. Christiano said this program will take at least two years and students can attend one of the two frank discussions that will be held in that time period. Students will be encouraged to attend the first frank meeting, not wait for the second. Any issues with attending will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
   2. Scholarships are provided for students who need help covering the entire expense.
   3. Christiano said other on-campus distance programs hold on-campus in-person events.
2. No research data proving the need for the program has been added to the proposal.
   1. Walsh-Childers expressed concern that the Graduate School will not approve the new program with no hard data to prove its need.
   2. Ferguson suggested contacting NPOs in Florida to see if there is interest in the program.
   3. It was suggested that the interest in the program can be documented by the number of invitations Christiano has received for speaking engagements. She said there have been over fifty this year and she will detail which organizations invited her.

Ferguson made a **motion** to have the proposal sent to the graduate faculty with the changes suggested at today’s meeting. There is no need for further review by the Graduate Committee. Walsh-Childers seconded, it was approved unanimously.

Mentoring Award Nominees

Ferguson and Treise withdrew their names from consideration. Ostroff left the meeting before discussion since he was on the list of nominees.

Walsh-Childers made a **motion** to nominate David Ostroff as the College of JM/COM’s Mentor of the year for 2015-16. Kelleher seconded, it was approved unanimously.

ATTENDING: Treise, Babanikos, Darm-Furey, Ferguson, Goodman, Kelleher, Molleda, Ostroff, Selepak, Spiker, Walsh-Childers, and Hedge. Christiano (guest)