**GRADUATE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

March 25, 2013

**Approval of Minutes** the minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

**DISCUSSION**

Mary Ann Ferguson discussed proposed changes to the current PR program due to the large number of students admitted in Fall 2012—40 students accepted admission.

The required classes have two sections of each class to accommodate the large number.

If regular supervisory committees were formed for each student, there would be 10 to 12 committees per faculty member.

Ferguson requested that the graduate committee approve the Project option for PR students. If approved, six students would do a thesis and 34 would complete projects.

The course, Ethics and Responsibility, has been added to the PR Project degree plan as a core course. The number 6660 was changed to 6400.

There is a required internship of at least 3 credits on the Project degree plan. Many international students will complete the internship over the summer in their home country.

MMC 6973 will be added and taught as a Capstone class by Moon Lee. It will be graded as 60% project and 40% individual work done on the project. There will be two sections of the course and will be taught like a campaigns class with the students in teams.

The Graduate School agreed that it’s up to our College if we want to offer this because the non-thesis degree is on the books.

They are asking for the Project option for only one year at this time. Ostroff suggested that it be for more than one year and then PR can decide if they want to continue it. There was a question about Mass Comm Theory—it will be taught online beginning in fall 2013.

**MOTION** was made, seconded by Walsh-Childers, that the project-in-lieu-of-thesis option be accepted as a permanent change with the option open for the PR faculty to discontinue if so desired. The motion was approved unanimously.

**GRADUATE COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 25, 2013

Ferguson said the PR faculty asked that there be only two committee members for Project committees instead of the usual three. Moon Lee would be one member and another PR faculty member would be the second.

On a side note, it was suggested that in the final presentation of the project, each student should be prepared to answer questions about any part of the project to show they were involved completely, not just responsible for one section.

A **MOTION** was made that for this class, Project committees will require only two committee members, instead of three. Treise seconded and it passed unanimously.

Ferguson mentioned that another issue discussed by the PR faculty involved the number of hours worked per credit for an internship. Undergraduate PR students work only 65 hours per credit and it was discussed that graduate students be allowed to work the same number as opposed to the current 100 hour requirement. Discussion followed and the general consensus was that the requirement for PR graduate students should be consistent with other graduate programs, not undergrad. No motion was made.

Ostroff mentioned that he would like a summary list of all Ph.D. students coming into the program. It was suggested there be a Facebook page for the students admitted but it would have to be approved by the university. It was determined that if it was set up by students, university approval would not be necessary.

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