**Graduate Committee 8/31/17**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Minimum Grade in Statistics**

Holloway and Hedge requested confirmation of grades required in Statistics classes. It was agreed to follow probation/suspension policy and require Master’s students to receive a C+ or better and Doctoral students to receive a B minus or better. Rodgers agreed to fix the Journalism degree plan to reflect the C+ grade. Hedge will update handbooks for 2018-19. Rodgers moved, Goodman seconded, passed unanimously.

**Defense Attendance**

The Graduate School has updated their committee member defense attendance policy to allow individual colleges to determine their own policy regarding attendance at defenses.

After discussion exploring different options, Spiker moved that “our college keep the current policy of the student and chair being in the same room at time of defense. Adding to the policy that if circumstances dictate that the student cannot be in the same room with the chair, the student and/or chair must petition the Sr. Associate Dean for permission to be in separate places.” Kelleher seconded, passed unanimously.

**Graduate Committee Meetings**

Graduate Committee will not meet the first Thursday of the month due to the Faculty Senate meetings.

**Ph.D. Degree Plan Group**

A committee made up of Mary Ann Ferguson, Yu Hao Lee, Janice Krieger, and Frank Waddell, reviewed the doctoral degree plan. A grant writing course was added for doctoral students to take their first spring.

There is concern that our students don’t have the necessary knowledge of introductory methods or statistics.

The committee suggested that doctoral students take an Intro to Methods course in the first fall semester if they haven’t had one already. Waddell will develop an online test to give students who think they have enough knowledge, prior to their first semester.

It was suggested that perhaps statistics should be taught in summer B for students to take prior to their first semester.

All doctoral students should take basic stats and either two more quantitative or two more qualitative courses. They should have depth in two methods (e.g., qualitative and survey).

There is still a need for the teaching class and it will continue to be offered in fall and spring. It would be most beneficial for students with no teaching experience to take the class in the first fall.

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| **First Fall** | **First Spring** |
| Perspectives  Colloquium  Teaching or Methods | Grant Writing  Teaching  Statistics or Methods |

Treise will talk to Calvert about law students taking statistics, if needed, in summer B prior to beginning the program.

Goodman asked if the minimum number of credits in the Methods section of the degree plan could be increased. Treise said yes, that number will be increased and the credits in the miscellaneous section will be decreased. 15 credits would be the minimum.

All committee members agreed that doctoral students should be required, not just strongly suggested, to have a basic knowledge in statistics and depth in two methods. “We don’t want graduates to leave here not knowing methods.” Students should be proficient in one method and knowledgeable in another.

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|  | ***ALL STUDENTS*** |  |
|  | Intro to Research Methods |  |
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|  | Intro to Statistics |  |

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| ***QUANTITATIVE STUDENTS*** |  | ***QUALITATIVE STUDENTS*** |
| Advanced Statistics |  | Qualitative Course #1 |
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| Extra Statistics |  | Qualitative Course #2 |

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|  | Additional course that is Method Specific | | |  |
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(this is Jody’s crude interpretation of Robyn’s diagram, apologies to Robyn)

**Policy for Dissertation**

Treise looked at seven programs regarding dissertation vs. research articles as the final product.

Research Articles—

* Most programs require three articles and most said that number could not include previous submissions, they must be original work.
* Articles would be based on data analyzed by the student.
* Each chapter is a separate article and the conclusion chapter brings them all together.
* Articles don’t have to be submitted for publication prior to the defense, although some programs allow it.

Discussion included agreement that the idea is to make the dissertation publication process better for the students—instead of trying to get articles from a dissertation, the dissertation is already the articles.

Questions asked—

* What if one chapter is a theory development chapter? (answer) It would be an option, not the only method.
* The articles couldn’t be co-authored so how does grant work fit in? (no answer)

Committee members are interested; Treise will pursue this idea.

**Traditional Master’s Tracks**

It was suggested that all academic Master’s tracks be combined into one for the pre- dissertation area. This would eliminate all individual Master’s tracks and result in an academic track and a professional track. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

ATTENDING: Babanikos, DiStaso, Ferguson, Goodman, Kelleher, Ostroff, Rodgers, Spiker, Treise, Hedge, and Holloway (briefly).