

Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee 2017-2018 End-of-Year report

Chair: Sean Asiqtuq Topkok

Members: Anne Beaudreau (CFOS), Michael Daku (CLA), Cheryl Barnes (Graduate Student), John Elliott (Graduate Student), Don Hampton (GI), Roman Makarevich (CNSM), Sean McGee (SOM), Robin Shoaps (CLA), Tathagata Ghosh (CEM), Falk Huettmann (CNSM), Amanda Kelley (CFOS), Jessie Young-Robertson (IARC), Jennifer Schell (CLA), Mike Castellini (ex-officio), Shelly Baumann (ex-officio), Holly McDonald (ex-officio), Karen Jensen (ex-officio)

In 2017-2018, the Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee considered 5 course proposals carried over from the previous year and 68 new program and course proposals and course changes submitted in 2017-2018. Most of these were submissions were approved, usually after revisions to bring them into alignment with UAF faculty senate requirements for course syllabi. There are no submissions from 2017-2018 carried over to 2018-2019. All of the program changes approved by GAAC were also approved by the Faculty Senate.

GAAC passed the following motions during 2017-18:

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to update the regulations and guidelines on course stacking. (Co-Sponsored with CAC)

Rationale: The current regulations and guidelines on course stacking are unclear and need clarification for the purposes of CourseLeaf coding and its relationship with Banner.

Walk-through Policy 2018 Commencement

Rationale: The Graduate School is requesting a temporary amendment to the Commencement Walk-Through Policy to add the names of the PhD students approved to “walk-through” at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony to the program booklet, at the discretion of the Registrar who will clearly identify the participating students’ intended graduation semester. The current policy does not consider the publishing time required for the commencement program booklets. A permanent change to the Commencement Walk-Through policy is forthcoming. There currently is a Walk-Through Policy in place that allows students to participate if they have finished all but the final revisions to their thesis: <http://www.uaf.edu/gradsch/faculty/commencement-walk-through/>. Students will not receive their diploma until they have completed all requirements.

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to establish a process for the selection of the two (2) Graduate Student members of the Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee.

Rationale: According to the Faculty Senate bylaws, “The Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee includes ten faculty members and up to two graduate students. The Dean of the Graduate School, Director of the Library, and the University Registrar are non-voting ex officio members. Graduate student representatives are appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School.”
<http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/about/faculty-senate-constituti/>

The UAF Faculty Senate moves to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Rationale: The Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee has established a process for which Graduate Student members are selected and the Bylaws for the committee need to be updated to reflect this change.

Catalog year & catalog time limit

Rationale: Evaluating advancement to candidacies for master’s or doctoral students is challenging because some students submit their advancements early in their academic career and we cannot predict what program changes may happen between when they are admitted/begin their program and when they graduate.

GAAC endorsed the following during 2017-18:

Research Faculty as Chairs of graduate student committees (Co-Sponsored by RAC)

Solution: The solution is to establish a process where UAF Research Faculty can serve as chairs on UAF graduate student committees.

GAAC made the following clarification during 2017-18:

Clarification on the 3/1 credit requirement for graduation

Intent: If a student completing a non-thesis/non-project degree, graduate certificate, or graduate licensure misses the graduation deadline or is completing an Incomplete course, they should not be required to register since they are not using any additional University resources beyond what the graduation application fee covers.

The following items are tabled for next year for GAAC's consideration:

- 1) Advancement wording clarification
- 2) Wording for reserving courses for graduate program for graduate section
- 3) Graduate Commencement Walk-through Policy
 - a) <http://www.uaf.edu/gradsch/faculty/commencement-walk-through/>
 - b) The policy needs to be updated for several reasons
 - c) The amount of PhDs applying to participate but not graduate in spring commencement has increased to about 10+.
 - d) The timeline for submitting approved Report on Thesis/Dissertation Defense the Monday before commencement is a very tight timeline to accommodate.
- 4) Information on the process/procedures that other universities use to award posthumously degrees.
- 5) Graduate Certificate/Graduate Licensure general requirements

GAAC would like to thank Emily Perryman for her help in making our meetings accessible to those members who couldn't be there in person, and her generous assistance with all aspects of Faculty Senate procedures and actions. Her knowledge of the Senate was very valuable, and we appreciate her assistance.