

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
August 9, 2011

The Graduate Council met on Tuesday August 9, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 209, Roy Hall Conference Room. Members present were: Drs. Christine Allen, Allen Bauman, Matt Deford (for Michael Yankowski), Kathryn Kelly, Michelle Morris, Sang Park, Pamela Simmons (for Laura Aaron), and Steve Horton, Chair.

1. Proposal from the Department of Psychology to reinstate the Substance Abuse concentration in the M.S. program in Clinical Psychology (552).

The Substance Abuse concentration was inadvertently deleted from the data base and the catalog and is being requested to reinstate to the master's degree program in Clinical Psychology to correct the error.

The proposal was approved.

2. A grade appeal was presented for Mary Brooks Thomas appealing a grade of C in HED 5200 01I from the spring semester of 2011.

Ms. Thomas was the first to speak with the Council and she stated her reasons for the appeal of the C grade. Ms. Thomas states that she had requested to receive a grade of I in the course when she realized that she would not be able to submit assignments on time due to a computer failure. She was not financially able to purchase another computer and only had access to complete assignments at work. This became a problem in completing assignments. Ms. Thomas then became ill and was not able to submit assignments by the late due date. Her daughter was also ill during the semester and that is why she requested an incomplete grade instead of a letter grade. She felt that Dr. Gallien was not receptive to her situation and hardships and therefore is contesting the grade. After questions Ms. Thomas was excused.

Dr. Tara Gallien, the instructor of record for HED 5200, was asked to present her information concerning the appeal. She stated that Ms. Thomas began submitting late assignments as early as mid-march. Dr. Gallien penalized Ms. Thomas 50% of the points on three late assignments. She also gave her 50% of the points on assignments that were received after the late deadline date which should have resulted in a zero grade. Dr. Gallien stated that she knew Ms. Thomas had been ill and even told her in emails that she was sorry for her situation. When Ms. Thomas asked about receiving a grade of I, Dr. Gallien told her that medical issues must be addressed by submitting documentation. A determination for granting a grade of I is made after documentation is received. Ms. Thomas never submitted documentation. Questions and answers followed and then Dr. Gallien was excused.

The Council had no additional questions for either Dr. Gallien or Ms. Thomas. Information presented by Ms. Thomas and Dr. Gallien was reviewed and discussed by the Council then a vote was taken.

The appeal was unanimously denied.

Dr. Horton talked about the new GRE testing and new scale for scoring. He also reminded the Council that new Graduate Faculty applications are due on September 10, 2011 and that they would be notified when it was time to review.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Steve Horton, Ph.D
Chair, Vice-Provost and Dean

Approved:

Dr. Lisa Abney, Vice-President

Dr. Randall J. Webb, President