College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Committee on Graduate Studies  
Minutes—December 11, 2008

Members Present: Ross Black, Jeannette Blackmar, Marjeanna Burge, Shelley Cline, Elaine Gerbert, Allan Hanson, William Lindsey, Gwen Macpherson, Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Catherine Preston, Lisa Rausch  
Also Present: Hannah Britton (Political Science/WGSS), Associate Dean Ann Cudd, Charlene Muehlenhard (Psychology/WGSS), Executive Assistant Dean Rebecca Peterson, Associate Dean Barbara Romzek, Ayu Saraswati (WGSS), Leatrice Smith (COGA), Savanna Trent (COGA), John Younger (Classics/WGSS).

The meeting was called to order by Allan Hanson at 11:04 AM.

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 13, 2008 minutes of the Committee on Graduate Studies as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Subcommittee on Petitions and Program Changes  
(William Lindsey, reporting)

A. The subcommittee reported on the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) proposed Ph.D. Program. Subcommittee members praised the proposals organization and content, yet they expressed a few concerns regarding the proposal. Their first concern was the absence of a M.A. degree program, since provisions in the proposal were outlined for a terminal M.A. degree for students who are unable to continue in the Ph.D. program. Second, they were concerned that Curricular Change Forms, or detailed course descriptions, for proposed new courses had not been submitted with the proposal. Third, the proposal did not fully address the foreign language or research skills (FLORS) requirements for graduate study at the university. Members of the WGSS faculty were in attendance at the meeting, and they addressed them with the full committee membership in attendance.

Additionally, the full committee was concerned about the limited information provided in the department endorsement letters from Political Science and Theatre & Film. Furthermore, some committee members expressed concerns regarding the Theatre & Film track since this department is in a time of transition.

The CGS voted to TABLE the vote on the proposal pending submission of the following:

1. A full list of required core courses with descriptions.
2. A more detailed description of the FLORS requirement to page 18 of the WGSS proposal in accordance with the FLORS description found on page 19 of the Graduate Catalog 2007-2009.

3. More information from the departments of Political Science and Theatre & Film illustrating their rationale for supporting the new program as well as a clear explanation of the ways the department plans to cooperate with WGSS.

B. The proposed English Ph.D. program changes, which include a change in existing degree requirements and a new option or track within existing degree, were not discussed in detail because the full committee did not receive the necessary information well in advance of the meeting. The CGS requested the information be distributed among the entire committee, but only the subcommittee will convene to discuss it and give a report at the next meeting.

Curricular Changes

A. The CGS APPROVED the following NEW COURSE:

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

CHANGE: NEW COURSE ENVIROMENTAL STUDIES:_____ (3)

Courses on special topics in Environmental Studies. These courses may be lecture, seminars, or readings. Students may enroll in more than one interest group but may enroll in a given interest group only once.

Justification for Request
As the interdisciplinary “home” of the IGERT C-CHANGE program, and as EVRN seeks to expand graduate-level interdisciplinary course opportunities, it is important to have a topic course in which faculty can explore a wide variety of topics as interest arises.

B. The CGS APPROVED the following CHANGES IN COURSE LISTINGS:

**SLAVIC LANGUAGE & LITERATURE**

CHANGE: COURSE DESCRIPTION
SLAV 822 EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY RUSSIAN LITERATURE (3)

A survey of Russian literature and thought of the 18th century. All readings in Russian. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Russian. LEC

SLAV 822 SEMINAR IN RUSSIAN LITERATURE: EIGHTEENTH
An investigation of specific themes or authors in the literature, culture, and thought of the 18th century. All readings in Russian. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and advanced Russian language.

SEM

The CGS suggested the language be changed to ‘Advanced knowledge of Russian language’ in regards to the Prerequisite, but this concern was a matter of style and not of content.

SLAV 932  SEMINAR: TOPICS IN SLAVIC FOLKLORE (3)
Investigation and concentrated study of one or more popular genres, e.g., byliny, skazki, zagadki, etc. All readings in Russian. Prerequisite: SLAV 630. LEC

SLAV 932  SEMINAR: TOPICS IN SLAVIC FOLKLORE (3)
Investigation and concentrated study of one or more themes (e.g., mythology, demonology, life rituals, folklore and literature), figures (e.g., Baba Yaga), or genres (e.g., magic tales, byliny, riddles) of Slavic folklore. All readings in Russian. Prerequisite: SLAV 630. SEM

C. The CGS APPROVED the REVERSAL of the following DELETION:

CHANGE: REVERSAL OF DELETION
POLS 722  INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS (3)
A survey of characteristic legal, political, and administrative relationships among different units of American government, with particular emphasis upon the role of state agencies. Prerequisite: Nine hour of Political science. LEC

Justification for Request
The department submitted this Deletion in error, and the committee voted unanimously to approve at the November 13, 2008 CGS. The department has asked for a reversal of the vote.

New Business

A. Examination and Defense of Masters Theses within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
(Lea Smith, reporting)

Six departments out of 27 respondents who offer Master’s Degrees require both a written comprehensive exam and a defense of the work. Since this situation could possibly bring about an issue of equity among departments, it was suggested that this be addressed.
After brief discussion, the CGS suggested the language of the policy be changed in the future, as opposed to tracking the departments and students. Language for the proposal to Graduate Studies governance at the university level will be presented at the next meeting of the CGS.

*The committee TABLED the following New Business because of time constraints for the meeting.*

B. Continuous enrollment for Degree Candidates

The meeting was adjourned by Allan Hanson at 12:35PM.

*The next meeting of the CGS will be on January 22, 2008, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Strong Hall, Room 210.*

Respectfully Submitted by Savanna Trent, COGA