College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Committee on Graduate Studies
Minutes—March 12, 2009

Members Present: Jeanette Blackmar, Marjeanna Burge, Shelly Cline, Susan Egan, Elaine Gerbert, Allan Hanson, Caroline Jewers, Mehrangiz Najafizadeh, Lisa Rausch
Also Present: Matthew Buechner (Molecular Biosciences), Ben Eggleston (Philosophy), Assistant Dean Kim McNeley, Executive Assistant Dean Rebecca Peterson, Associate Dean Barbara Romzek, Leatrice Smith (COGA), Savanna Trent (COGA).

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

Minutes

The committee approved the February 26, 2009 minutes as written.

Report of the Subcommittee on Petitions and Program Changes

Caroline Jewers reported on the Molecular Biosciences proposed program changes. The department requested to replace the current requirement to take both BIOL 807 (3 credits) and BIOL 808 (3 credits) with a single requirement for BIOL 807 (6 credits). This change will apply to all graduate degrees offered in the department: M.A. and Ph.D. in Microbiology, M.A. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry, M.A. and Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. The subcommittee recommended that the CGS approve the changes proposed for this program.

The CGS APPROVED the program changes.

Report of the Subcommittee on Curricular Changes

A. New Courses

The following course was first presented at the CGS meeting of February 12, 2009 and was returned to the department with the request to provide a justification. The CGS APPROVED the new course:

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS NATIONS

CHANGE: NEW COURSE

GINS 814 Decolonizing Narratives (3). With the decolonizing potential of Indigenous literary and cultural productions, this course seeks to both answer and explore such questions as: How can literary and cultural texts such as novels, poetry, music, and film from world Indigenous communities function as decolonizing tools? Can decolonizing methodologies be applied to such texts? How do such texts contribute to and strengthen Indigenous political, intellectual, cultural, visual and rhetorical sovereignty? An
An overview will be presented from Indigenous literature, films and documentaries from North America, the Pacific, Australia, and New Zealand.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR NEW COURSE**
This course was previously taught with success as INS 504/804 Special Topics Decolonizing Narratives in Spring 2008. GINS will be offering this course annually, and we recommend that it receive a regular course number, not a special topics class number. Submission of it as an undergraduate course of GINS 814 has been completed, as well.

**B. Change in Existing Courses**

*The CGS APPROVED the following course changes:*

**MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES**

**CHANGE: TITLE, CREDIT, COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**(OLD)**
**BIOL 807 Molecular Biosciences I** (3). An introduction to the advanced study of biochemistry and microbiology for all Molecular Biosciences graduate students. Topics can include macromolecular structure, metabolism, kinetics and thermodynamics, bioinformatics, basic and pathogenic bacteriology, immunology, and virology. Prerequisite: Admission to the graduate program in Molecular Biosciences, or consent of instructor.

**(NEW)**
**BIOL 807 Graduate Molecular Biosciences** (6). An introduction to the advanced study of biochemistry, microbiology, genetics, cell and developmental biology, and neurobiology for all Molecular Biosciences graduate students. Topics can include macromolecular structure, metabolism, kinetics and thermodynamics, bioinformatics, prokaryotic and eukaryotic genetic mechanisms, cell structure and function, signal transduction, basic and pathogenic bacteriology, immunology, virology, membrane potentials, synaptic transmission, and sensory neurophysiology. Prerequisite: Admission to the graduate program in Molecular Biosciences, or consent of instructor.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES**
The Molecular Biosciences Dept. instituted a new graduate curriculum in 2006, with a requirement for two new 3-credit courses, BIOL 807 Molecular Biosciences I and BIOL 808 Molecular Biosciences II to be taken by all entering graduate students. Each course is offered every fall, with BIOL 807 taught for the first 8 weeks of the semester, followed by BIOL 808 for the second half of the semester. The two courses together provide an advanced background across the entire field of study. The reason for having the material presented via two 3-credit courses rather than a single 6-credit course was simply to prevent giving 6 credits of a single grade, which would have an inordinately high effect on student
GPA, and could even prevent a student from continuing in graduate studies if the grade were a ‘C,’ no matter how well he or she did in other courses. We have had a difficulty with this arrangement, in that many students do poorly on their first graduate exam (a midterm for BIOL 807 given in September), but then improve as they learn what level of study is necessary for graduate work. This puts a very high premium on the final exam for BIOL 807 given in October. Students who enter the program with a strong background in biochemistry (the material for this portion of the course) do well, but students with different backgrounds have struggled. At the same time, the rationale for splitting the courses has been obviated by the institution of +/- grading. A student performing at an intermediate level between A and B can earn an A- or B+, so the effect of a single grade on the GPA is not as severe. For these reasons, we would like to combine the material from BIOL 807 and BIOL 808 into a single 6-credit course, BIOL 807, and eliminate BIOL 808 from the catalogue.

PHILOSOPHY

CHANGE: COURSE LISTING, TITLE, PREREQUISITE
(OLD)
PHIL 805 Advanced Studies in Plato (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 508 or PHIL 605 or PHIL 607 or PHIL 608 or PHIL 650. LEC

(NEW)
PHIL 805 Plato (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 508 or PHIL 605 or PHIL 607 or PHIL 608 or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
Rationale for course title change is to make the title shorter and consistent with the titles of courses such as 807, 924, 828, 835, and others. The rationale for changes is that the 800-level courses and 500-600-level courses have evolved since the current prerequisites were written, and the revisions accurately reflect the current relationships among those two groups of courses. The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

CHANGE: COURSE LISTING, TITLE, PREREQUISITE
(OLD)
PHIL 807 Aristotle (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 508 or PHIL 605 or PHIL 607 or PHIL 608 or PHIL 648 PHIL 650. LEC
PHIL 807 Aristotle (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 508 or PHIL 605 or PHIL 607 or PHIL 608 or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for changes is that the 800-level courses and 500- and 600-level courses have evolved since the current prerequisites were written, and the revisions accurately reflect the current relationship among those two groups of courses. The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

CHANGE: COURSE LISTING, PREREQUISITE
(OLD)
PHIL 820 Topics in the History of Philosophy: _____ (3). This course may be offered by different instructors under different subtitles, and may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisites to be announce in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: 500-600 level course specified as appropriate. LEC

(NEW)
PHIL 820 Topics in the History of Philosophy: _____ (3). This course may be offered by different instructors under different subtitles, and may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisites to be announce in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: 500-600 level course as specified or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

CHANGE: COURSE LISTING, PREREQUISITE
(OLD)
PHIL 824 Hume (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 648 or PHIL 650 or PHIL 654. LEC

(NEW)
PHIL 824 Hume (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 648 or PHIL 650 or PHIL 654 or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.
PHIL 828 Kant (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 648 or PHIL 650 or PHIL 654. LEC

PHIL 828 Kant (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 648 or PHIL 650 or PHIL 654 or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicate to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

PHIL 831 Hegel (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 560 or 500-600 level course specified as appropriate. LEC

PHIL 831 Hegel (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 560 or 500-600 level course as specified or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicate to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

PHIL 843 Heidegger (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 560 or PHIL 562 or PHIL 570 or PHIL 582 or PHIL 592. LEC

PHIL 843 Heidegger (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 560 or PHIL 562 or PHIL 570 or PHIL 582 or PHIL 590 or PHIL 592 or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for changes is that the 800-level courses and 500- and 600-level courses have evolved since the current prerequisites were written, and the revisions accurately reflect the current relationship among those two groups of courses.

The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicate to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.
PHIL 848 Wittgenstein (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 628 or PHIL 630 or PHIL 638 or PHIL 654. LEC

PHIL 848 Wittgenstein (3). Prerequisite: PHIL 638 or PHIL 650 or PHIL 654 or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for changes is that the 800-level courses and 500- and 600-level courses have evolved since the current prerequisites were written, and the revisions accurately reflect the current relationship among those two groups of courses.

The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

CHANGE: COURSE LISTING, PREREQUISITE
(OLD)
PHIL 850 Topics in Recent Philosophy: _____ (3). This course may be offered by different instructors under different subtitles, and may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisite to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: 500-600 level course specified as appropriate. LEC

(NEW)
PHIL 850 Topics in Recent Philosophy: _____ (3). This course may be offered by different instructors under different subtitles, and may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisites to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: 500-600 level as specified or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

CHANGE: COURSE LISTING, PREREQUISITE
(OLD)
PHIL 886 Topics in Applied Ethics: _____ (3). This course may be offered under different subtitles, such as professional ethics or some issue in business ethics (e.g., corporate responsibility) or in medical ethics (e.g., the definition of death); it may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisite to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: PHIL 670 or PHIL 672 or 500-600 level specified as appropriate. LEC

(NEW)
PHIL 886 Topics in Applied Ethics: _____ (3). This course may be offered under different subtitles, such as professional ethics or some issue in business ethics (e.g., corporate responsibility) or in medical ethics (e.g., the definition of death); it may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisite to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: PHIL 670 or PHIL 672 or 500-600 level specified as appropriate. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.
(NEW)

PHIL 886 Topics in Applied Ethics: _____ (3). This course may be offered under different subtitles, such as professional ethics or some issue in business ethics (e.g., corporate responsibility) or in medical ethics (e.g., the definition of death); it may be taken more than once if the subject matter varies sufficiently. Topic, instructor, and specific prerequisites to be announced in the Schedule of Classes. Prerequisite: PHIL 670 or PHIL 672 or 500-600 level course as specified or permission of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The rationale for the inclusion of the phrase ‘permission of the instructor’ is to communicative to students that special cases will be handled on an individualized bases.

C. Course Deletion

The CGS APPROVED the following COURSE DELETION:

MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES

CHANGE: DELETE COURSE
BIOL 808 Molecular Biosciences II (3). An introduction to the advanced study of genetics, cell and developmental biology, and neurobiology for all Molecular Biosciences graduate students. Topics can include prokaryotic and eukaryotic genetic mechanisms, cell structure and function, signal transduction, membrane potentials, synaptic transmission, and sensory neurophysiology. Prerequisite: Admission to the graduate program in Molecular Biosciences, or consent of instructor. LEC

JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGES
The Molecular Biosciences Dept. instituted a new graduate curriculum in 2006, with a requirement for two new 3-credit courses, BIOL 807 Molecular Biosciences I and BIOL 808 Molecular Biosciences II to be taken by all entering graduate students. Each course is offered every fall, with BIOL 807 taught for the first 8 weeks of the semester, followed by BIOL 808 for the second half of the semester. The two courses together provide an advanced background across the entire field of study. The reason for having the material presented via two 3-credit courses rather than a single 6-credit course was simply to prevent giving 6 credits of a single grade, which would have an inordinately high effect on student GPA, and could even prevent a student from continuing in graduate studies if the grade were a ‘C,’ no matter how well he or she did in other courses.

We have had a difficulty with this arrangement, in that many students do poorly on their first graduate exam (a midterm for BIOL 807 given in September), but then improve as they learn what level of study is necessary for graduate work. This puts a very high premium on the final exam for BIOL 807 given in October. Students who enter the program
with a strong background in biochemistry (the material for this portion of the course) do well, but students with different backgrounds have struggled. At the same time, the rationale for splitting the courses has been obviated by the institution of +/- grading. A student performing at an intermediate level between A and B can earn an A- or B+, so the effect of a single grade on the GPA is not as severe. For these reasons, we would like to combine the material from BIOL807 and BIOL808 into a single 6-credit course, BIOL 807, and eliminate BIOL 808 as a separate course from the catalogue.

**Academic Misconduct Policy**

The Committee on Undergraduate Studies & Advising recently approved changes to the Academic Misconduct Policy. Dean McNeley presented these changes to the CGS for approval because the policy changes would also apply to students in graduate programs. The policy is designed to record acts of academic misconduct in order to keep relevant parties updated, accountable, and protected. A question and answer session followed to clarify the sequencing of reporting to different units and/or individuals such that instructors have all relevant information before formulating and presenting sanctions to students.

*The CGS APPROVED changes to the policy as presented by Dean McNeley.*

**Old Business**

A. HWC to PCS Course Changes

At the February 10, 2009 meeting of the College Academic Council, the CGS was asked to query the department members regarding their preference to cross-list these courses rather than do away with all HWC designations. The CGS expressed concern about cross-listing courses in PCS and HWC because Peace and Conflict Studies is not a separate department from Humanities and Western Civilization. It would be problematic to list one course in the same department with two different course listings in the catalog. The suggestion was made to have the HWC and PCS courses state "same as" or "please refer to" in the course description, instead of creating two courses with different course numbers.

*Lea Smith will request clarification from Dr. Cotten-Spreckelmyer, and Dr. Hanson will report back to the next meeting of CAC.*

B. Examination Master’s Final Exam vs. Master’s Thesis Defense

Lea Smith reported on department responses to her inquiry regarding the administration of Master’s final examinations. It has become evident that the Research and Graduate Studies policy has various interpretations by different
departments, and this makes it difficult to evaluate the departments’ practices. A discussion ensued in which more questions and concerns arose. It was decided that RGS be consulted about the issue because it is their policy and their input will help focus further discussion and action.

*Dr. Hanson will present this matter to Dean Rosen and report back to the next meeting of CGS.*

**New Business**

African and African American Studies New Courses

*The committee TABLED New Business because of time constraints for the meeting. These new courses will be addressed by the Subcommittee on Curricular Changes at the next meeting of the CGS.*

The meeting was adjourned by Allan Hanson at 12:46 PM.

*The next meeting of the CGS will be on March 26, 2009, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Strong Hall, Room 210.*

Respectfully Submitted by Savanna Trent, COGA