

Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for 03/20/17

Attending: Robin Shoap, Mitch Reed, Mike Castellini, Sean McGee (by phone), Roman Makarevich, Jayne Harvie, Donie Bret-Harte, Don Hampton, Karen Jenson, Holly McDonald, Mike Daku, Anne Beaudreau (by phone)

I. Minutes from our meetings of 2/20/17, 1/20/17, and 12/02/16 passed

II. Mike Castellini provided updates from the Graduate School. Health insurance for graduate students will continue for another year with basically the same terms, which is good news. Premiums might go up ~8% (this will not affect the students, but will be paid by the university). A telemedicine option may be included, for people who can't access clinics such as those graduate students based in Juneau (24 hr coverage). There are still a few details to be worked out, but this should be finished soon.

Updates on School of Ed consolidation. Mike Castellini met with the Provost and Deans. For now everything will continue as usual this year, because the time required to implement the consolidation is significant. Even though the change is coming, there are so many things that have to be done ahead of time that GAAC can carry on as usual. The Dean of School of Education is concerned about how graduate committees will function if School of Education faculty members end up working for UAF, but based in Fairbanks.

There was quite a bit of discussion on the question of whether the provision that graduate students can enroll in 1 credit instead of 3 during their last semester (after defending their thesis) should apply to students that have thesis and non-project degrees, such as the Master's in Business Administration. There are areas where students get an incomplete, or fail to turn in their graduation paperwork, so their graduation is delayed for a semester. Should they have to register for 1 credit in this semester? Some argue students should not be rewarded for missing deadlines, and UAF is more strict than at UAF. On the other hand, GAAC passed the change in requirement from 3 to 1 credit to make it easier for

GAAC discussed the possibility of (100?) instead of requiring the preferred option.

Mike Castellini noted that the wording in the graduate scholarship and you do not get the money back. Some find this scary and imparts a negative message. Castellini has not yet discussed the issue that is related to the average in classes. The completion fellowships, but there are often questions asked that the fellowships need to be specific and

Anne recommended ~~and~~ language to say please contact the graduate school if there are circumstances that would change your time"line.

III. Holly McDonald gave us an update and demonstration on Courseleaf. She would like some volunteers to try o Courseleaf and let them know if issues arise. Any course change now will go through the same process involving Courseleaf, and the distinction between minor and major changes will disappear. She envisions that GAAC will be