

GENERAL SESSION AGENDA

Monday, December 2, 2019

11:55 a.m. – 1:20 p.m., Seminar Room 5255, Mosse Humanities Building

- I. Approval of November 4, 2019 minutes (attached)
- II. Announcements and updates
 - A. Assessment Report (attached)
 - B. Update on re-imagining grad funding
 - C. Graduate support
- III. For discussion or action
 - A. Enrollment-cap proposal (attached)
 - B. Conference travel support
 - C. History First-Year Review

GRAD PROGRAM EVENTS	
12/09	JCOTA
12/09	Department Mtg
12/11	Last class day
12/13-19	Final Exams
1/3-6	AHA Meeting - NYC
01/21	Spring Instruction begins
01/27	Executive GC Meeting
02/03	Next Grad Council Meeting

Graduate Council
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

Monday, December 2, 2019

11:55 a.m. – 1:20 p.m., Seminar Room 5255, Mosse Humanities Building

Present: Dennis (Chair), Ciancia, Hennessy, Houck, Rock-Singer; Abadie, Normand; Cerepak, Lehrer, Walsh; Gramer (via audio)

Absent: Crifasi

- I. Minutes of November 4, 2019 meeting – Approved
- II. Announcements and updates
 - A. Assessment Report – Report by Dennis
 - B. Update on re-imagining grad funding – Report by Dennis
 - C. Graduate support – Report by Abadie
- III. For discussion or action
 - A. Enrollment-cap proposal - Discussed
 - B. Conference travel support - Discussed
 - C. History First-Year Review – Tabled

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

To be reviewed by the Graduate Council, December 2, 2019

BACKGROUND

In Spring 2015, the Graduate School required degree programs to adopt “learning goals” for the M.A. and Ph.D. (These are subsequent requirements were largely, it seems, prompted by the Higher Learning Commission, the UW’s regional accrediting agency.) On April 8, 2015, the Graduate Council approved learning goals for the History degree program.

In the summer of 2016, the Graduate School required degree programs to submit “assessment plans,” indicating how we planned to assess whether our students are achieving our learning goals. As a result, we created evaluation forms to be completed by students’ committees at the Second-Year Review and at the Ph.D. oral defense of the dissertation. We continue to use these forms in 2018-2019.

By December 2, 2019, we must submit to the Graduate School an “assessment report,” indicating how we have assessed certain learning goals. Since we have a larger number of Ph.D. evaluations than Second-Year Review evaluations, we will report the results of our Ph.D. evaluations.

EVALUATION RESULTS

The table below shows the results of evaluations conducted at the conclusion of 11 Ph.D. oral defenses in 2018-2019.

The Graduate Council reviewed these results at its December 2, 2019, meeting. It did not detect any patterns of concern relating to the students’ field of study or start date (those details are omitted in the table below to protect confidentiality).

If you have any suggestions or concerns, please raise those at the department meeting or get in touch with me directly.

Prof. Joe Dennis
Director of Graduate Studies

Assessment-Ph.D. Evaluations, 2018-2019				
Student	Ability to articulate research problems	Ability to push the boundaries of current knowledge	Breadth of historical and cultural knowledge	Ability to articulate broader significance of the research
1	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
2	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Adequate
3	Adequate	Adequate	Excellent	Excellent
4	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
5	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
6	Adequate	Excellent	Adequate	Excellent
7	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
8	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
9	Adequate	Excellent	Excellent	Adequate
10	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
11	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

November 26, 2019

DGS proposal to the Graduate Council on minimum enrollment caps for graduate seminars.

This semester we had two cases of faculty setting low enrollment caps in graduate courses, and in one case, a new graduate student was denied permission to enroll, resulting in the likelihood the student will never be able to take an important graduate seminar (because faculty can now only teach grad seminars every third semester, many faculty go on leave, and do not teach the same seminar twice in a row). This has caused me to consider setting minimum enrollment caps for graduate seminars. Current department legislation caps undergraduate seminars at 15, and students must be allowed in up to that number. L & S team-teaching policy requires team-taught courses to enroll at least the number of students that would have been otherwise required. In light of the above, I propose the following for discussion and action by the Graduate Council:

a. No single-instructor graduate course may set an enrollment cap of less than 12 students without approval by the DGS and Curriculum Committee. They will consider waiver requests in conjunction with their review of fall course request submissions for the following year. The DGS and Curriculum Committee shall only approve such requests upon a clear showing of extraordinary need. Graduate student auditors, visiting scholars, postdocs, non-degree students, etc., shall not count towards the cap. Graduate students wanting to take the course for credit must be allowed to register up to the cap. Faculty will still have the option to require instructor approval to register, but approval cannot be denied to create space for a person not taking the course for graduate credit in a UW degree program.

b. No dual-instructor graduate course set may set an enrollment cap of less than 20 students without approval by the DGS and Curriculum Committee. They will consider waiver requests in conjunction with their review of fall course request submissions for the following year. The DGS and Curriculum Committee shall only approve such requests upon a clear showing of extraordinary need. Graduate student auditors, visiting scholars, postdocs, non-degree students, etc., shall not count towards the cap. Graduate students wanting to take the course for credit must be allowed to register up to the cap. Faculty will still have the option to require instructor approval to register, but approval cannot be denied to create space for a person not taking the course for graduate credit in a UW degree program.