Graduate Studies Committee Meeting Summary

Submitted by Katie Goodland

The Graduate Studies Committee conducted an asynchronous meeting from 13-15 April, using the Blackboard discussion board. Items discussed and voted on were as follows:

1. How to submit theses while the college is closed. The majority of the committee voted for electronic submission, which was the recommendation of the library’s archivist. Most are in agreement that we should switch to electronic submission and archiving anyway as many other colleges and universities already have done. The library will be updating its site with instructions for electronic submission. Departments are still sorting out how to sign the required cover sheet remotely—there are several possibilities.

2. A new mission statement for the MA in English was approved by everyone on the committee after a friendly amendment requested by the Department of Education, which required the adding of the word “College” to make it clear that our teaching of Theories of Rhetoric and Composition are aimed at the “College English Classroom.”

3. A change in the MA in History’s double counting policy was approved unanimously.

4. The GSC voted unanimously to adopt CUNY’s 4+1 policy at CSI. The committee has been discussing and refining this policy for CSI since September. The policy, which will appear in the Graduate Catalog under “Policies” at the beginning, we will enable the departments and programs to OPT IN, if they wish. It is not mandatory. If they opt in the departments and program will have to decide the curricular details and submit these through GSC to Faculty Senate.  We are simply enabling this process to happen.

 The 4+1 policy allows graduate programs at the college invite selected undergraduates exceptional undergraduates to complete their bachelor’s degrees with 12 credits of graduate course thereby allowing them to graduate with a bachelor’s degree and then continue on and earn a master’s degree in less time was approved unanimously with two requested emendations, which have been made. The first change was to change the specified 120 credits to when **they attain the minimum required number of credits for their respective undergraduate degree program (see catalog),** because some undergraduate degree programs require more than 120 credits. The second change was to specify the range for the ratio of the number of credits to be double counted in relation to the total number of credits in the graduate program. Here is the new language: **For graduate programs of 30-36 credits, double counting 12 credits is recommended, based upon national norms. For graduate programs with more credits, the same ratio of double-counted credits to overall credits is recommended. This means that the ratio of double-counted credits should range from a minimum of 33 % to a maximum of 40% of the overall credits in the graduate program.**

Please refer to the 4+1 Policy to read these changes in context.

I look forward to hearing your suggestions for clarifying this language.

Finally, I asked for comments on whether or not committee members liked the asynchronic approach to our meeting. Everyone liked it, but we all agreed it was more time consuming. I will likely run the May meeting the same way. I did spend more time reading through the posts, but I found I was able to digest the information more thoroughly. We shall see. Maybe I will do both.