

**BROWN UNIVERSITY
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

To: Members of the Faculty

From: Sheila Bonde, Dean of the Graduate School, Chair, Graduate Council

Re: Annual Report of the Graduate Council

Date: December 2008

The following is a report on the activities of the Graduate Council during the academic year 2007-2008. The Graduate Council is made up of faculty, graduate students and administrative officers with general responsibilities for overseeing graduate education at Brown. Eight members of the faculty and four graduate students serve as voting members of the Council, together with the Dean of the Graduate School (Chair), and the Associate Dean of the Graduate School. The Council normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

Faculty Vice-Chair: Onésimo Almeida

Faculty: James Anderson , Elie Bienenstock, Allan Feldman , Joseph Hogan, Robert Lee, Yan Liang, Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg.

Graduate students: Julie Waters, William Tatum, Graham Poage.

1. SUB-COMMITTEES and NEW STRUCTURE

During the 2007-08 academic year, the Graduate Council and CCC (College Curriculum Committee) joined forces to establish a new sub-committee on course review. This sub-committee replaced the UCC (University Curriculum Committee), which had met only irregularly since its establishment. The new sub-committee is composed of faculty and student representatives from each parent committee. They meet twice monthly to review all undergraduate and graduate courses proposals. Since many lecture courses require TA support, and since new graduate courses have a potential impact on overall teaching load, the new sub-committee structure helps to address needs across the University. Two faculty and two graduate students from the Graduate Council are assigned to this sub-committee. The remainder serve on the program sub-committee, dedicated to the approval of new graduate programs and the review of existing ones.

The Graduate Council also took on the responsibility of reviewing candidates for several Graduate School awards: the Horace Mann award for a distinguished alumnus or alumna, the Presidential award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Joukowsky awards for distinguished dissertations.

2. NEW AND REVISED DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Graduate Council received proposals for revised or new degree programs in the following areas:

Ph. D. in Computational Molecular Biology

A proposal from the Center for Computational Molecular Biology to establish a doctoral program was reviewed by the Graduate Council twice in the 2007-08 academic year. Though supportive of the field, the Council asked the Center faculty to strengthen the proposal, providing greater detail about the necessary preparation and training of students in ‘feeder’ fields, about the future funding for such students (RAships, etc.) and about the endorsement from faculty in allied areas. The proposal was provisionally approved.

Revision to the graduate program in Sociology

The former curricular structure of the graduate program in Sociology required students to be trained in three areas in their first year: methods, social theory and statistics. Since students enter with a range of competencies, students were not being trained as a cohort, but were enrolling in a varied list of courses. The new curriculum will retain and build the first-year cohort experience, while providing accelerated exposure to social theory and statistics. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Joint MD-MPP-MPH program

The Graduate Council approved a proposal for a new joint program in Public Policy and Public Health with the Medical School. Recent revisions to the medical curriculum now make stronger connections to public affairs and public policy programs more accessible to medical students. Although the numbers of students will be very small, this permits health policy training for Brown students.

Master’s program in English

The department of English submitted a formal proposal to reinstate its master’s program to admit students for the 2008-09 academic year. The program had been suspended the previous year in an attempt to re-evaluate its pedagogic value and its requirements. The Council first agreed to reactivate the application for one year, pending fuller review of the program, and a fuller proposal for its permanent reinstatement. The revised proposal was then approved, re-establishing the Master’s degree in English.

Programs in Biology and Medicine

The University’s central data systems have not been tracking the advanced-degree programs of the Division of Biology and Medicine as distinct units. As a result, it has been difficult to provide data and to administer these programs. The Graduate Council formally acknowledged the distinction among the following programs (which have been granting advanced degrees for some time, but have never been recognized formally as degree-granting bodies in the University’s system of record):

- Biomedical Engineering
- Biostatistics
- Ecological and Evolutionary Biology
- Epidemiology
- Health Services Research
- Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry
- Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology

-Pathobiology

Renaming of the Ethnomusicology Program:

Just like the reclassification of the Biology programs, this proposal from the Music department formalized a long-standing program in Ethnomusicology. It was approved.

Name change from Ph.D. in Special Studies to Integrative Studies

In order to avoid confusion with “Special Student” status, a name change for self-designed interdisciplinary graduate programs was proposed by the dean, and approved by the Council.

Proposal to discontinue the Concurrent Degree Option

The Council discussed a proposal to discontinue the Concurrent degree option. The College Committee on Academic Standing asked the Council to discontinue this option. Despite concerns that the students enrolled in the program were receiving insufficient graduate training, members of the Council were reluctant to abolish the program entirely. Instead, they asked the College Committee on Academic Standing to provide fuller data on student records. This is to be discussed at a future meeting.

Future status of the Development Studies Master’s program

A proposal was brought by the Dean to suspend the Master’s program in Development Studies. The dean has met with faculty involved in the program, and has asked them to evaluate future directions in Development Studies, at the doctoral as well as Master’s level. Working in concert with the Watson Institute, faculty in Development Studies will develop a proposal --including a revised curricular plan for a Master’s program, if one is envisioned --and this will be brought to the Council for future consideration. The proposal to suspend the current program for one year (or until a revised curricular plan is developed) was approved by the Council.

3. REVIEW OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Graduate Council now reviews graduate programs in the semester following their external review. In the spring of 2008, the Council reviewed Psychology and Cognitive and Linguistic Science, two programs that are building toward a joint graduate program. The Council also reviewed the History and Hispanic Studies programs.

4. WORKING GROUP AND NEASC

The Council reviewed the final report of the Working Group before its release, and discussed the graduate section of the NEASC report, prepared by the Dean.

5. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Council discussed directions in new international exchange programs and international research connections at the graduate level.

6. NEW COURSES

The following new courses were approved by the curricular sub-committee and given final approval by the Graduate Council in 2007-2008:

CSC12531 Internet and Web Algorithms
HIST2970C Rethinking the Civil Rights Movement
POLS2350 Freedom, Power, and Political Action
SOC2960M Sociology of Organizations Graduate Seminar
CS2590 Advanced Topics in Cryptography
HI2971E History of Latin American Historiography
ARCH2400 Sacred Space: Archaeological & Religious Studies Perspectives
ARCH2450 Comparative Empires and Material Culture
ARCH2500 Art and Archaeology of Civic Identity
ANTH 2310 Culture and Violence
POLS2131 Politics of Gender
Community Health 2400 Pharmacoepidemiology
GEOL2800 The Chemistry and Mineralogy of Mars
Public Policy 2130 Organizations and Policymaking
Community Health/Biostatistics 2604 Statistical Methods for Spatial Data
PHP2540 Advanced Methods for Multivariate Analysis
AMCV2651 The Responsive Museum (please note that the minutes show AMCV2650
but it was changed to AMCV2651)
SOC2040 Classical Sociological Theory
SOC2020 Multivariate Statistical Methods II
BCH2430 Analysis of Population Based Data Sets
BIOL2930Z Pharmaceutics Delivery in Biological Systems
POLS2970 Preliminary Examination Preparation
POLS2050 Prospectus Writing Seminar, Part I
POLS2051 Prospectus Writing Seminar, Part II
ARCH2160 The Archaeology of Democracy: Social Transformations
ARCH2410 Archaeologies of Place
EGYT2510 Social Life in Ancient Egypt