

**Graduate Council Meeting Agenda**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021– 3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**ZOOM**

|   |                              |   |                                 |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| X | Jerry McMurtry               | X | Kristin Henrich (Library)       | x | David Tank (COS)             |
| X | Julie Amador (EHHS)          | x | Pedram Rezamand (At-Large/CALS) | X | Elowyn Yager (At-Large/ENGR) |
| X | Linda Chen (CBE)             | x | Kelly Quinnett (CLASS)          | X | Ata Zadehgo (ENGR)           |
| X | Dan Cronan (CAA)             | X | Kerri Vierling (CNR/ENVS)       | X | Seth Rose (GPSA)             |
| X | Robert Heinse (At-Large/UWP) | x | Dan Strawn (CALS)               |   | Alexander Blanco (GPSA)      |

- I. Minutes from December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 approved unanimously
  
- II. Announcements
  - i. P3 Funding Update
    - 1. The university engaged with a utilities company to buy the steam plant; that money has been invested and some of the proceeds (about 3 million) will move us towards the R1 status. We will use this funding to increase the number of RAs and postdocs. This will help us bring in more Ph.D. students and enhance the research we’re doing in our labs.
    - 2. Hoping to have more specifics about funding available soon so we can recruit students for the Fall.
  - ii. Grad Well Initiative
    - 1. Grad student mental health has been a huge concern across the state and country. The attached resolution supports the mental health of our grad students- we’re looking to develop support for our grad students through COGS specifically. We’ll be partnering with BSU (they’ve already rolled out one initiative).
    - 2. Vandal Health education recently got additional funding for a national college health assessment. EHHS is analyzing this data for grad students specifically. UI has a director of health and wellbeing that sits in on these initiatives across campus. GPSA hopes to be able to share this data within a few weeks.
    - 3. Member suggested that we replace the word “inclusion” with “representation” in the attached resolution.
  - iii. Student Lab Work over Summer- Drafting Language
    - 1. Still working on drafting this language; McMurtry plans to present it at the next meeting.
  - iv. COGS Position Search Update
    - 1. Two people have been hired for the Graduate Student Support Coordinator positions. COGS also recently lost one of the Graduate Admissions staff members and will begin a search for that position soon.
  - v. COGS Excellence Awards Reminder
    - 1. Nominations are due Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - vi. 3 Minute Thesis Update
    - 1. No innovation showcase this year. UI 3MT event will take place on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - 2. We are asking for judges from 1:00-3:00, let us know if you’re interested!

### III. New Business

#### a. Program Changes

##### i. Groundwater Hydrology

1. <https://nextcatalog.uidaho.edu/programadmin/?key=429>
2. Developed out of the Geology department before they merged with Geography. If you want to work in groundwater you need a professional certification; this program will meet that need. Having discussions with Idaho Department of Water Resources and regional companies about the need for a master's degree as well.
  - a. This is only a groundwater-oriented degree instead of a general geology degree.
3. This could allow students to work on classes their senior year and then complete the program with only one year of grad school. Helps us serve students better- lots of student interest within the department.
4. Members asked- does this work with the Water Resources program? Water Resources is broad program. This degree doesn't fit under the water resources umbrella because it's so tightly focused, and there is no inter-disciplinary aspect.
5. Is this a thesis degree or professional degree? This is organized as a non-thesis degree. These students will be self-funded or funded through their employer. Research credits are more along the lines of a paper report that gives them the chance to do an in-depth review of some aspect of groundwater hydrology that they're interested in since the rest of the degree is not very customizable.
  - a. We'll need to note that this is a nonthesis degree so it can be appropriately accredited. Jerry recommends that they put it through as thesis/nonthesis.
6. Will curriculum be more open and managed in the department, or put in the catalog as is? There may be a problem with 310, since this isn't a graduate course. Under curriculum, note that students take up to 30 credits of these following courses. Deal with 310 as a deficiency rather than as a graduate requirement.
7. The attached pdf in Course Leaf shows Geology 515 as 4 credits; the number of credits online is different, and it doesn't add up to 29 credits total.
  - a. 515 is moving through the university curriculum committee now and is the grad version of 410 (a capstone class for hydrology). That class will be jumped up a credit if this program is approved.
  - b. Saying that students need a total of 30 credits and leaving this open will fix this issue. Students can "complete research credits to bring the total to 30".
8. Does the master's degree qualify them to take the exam, or do they need to meet additional requirements? If they finish the degree, they will be qualified. Someone could also take this degree if they didn't qualify for PD.
  - a. AMMENDMENT (2/17/21): Completing this program does not necessarily qualify students for a Professional Geologist license.
9. Members wondered if this program would benefit from a required seminar.

10. Water Resources should be addressed under similar degrees. Will review to double check UI Water Resources is listed in appropriate section.
  11. There is no online option currently. The goal is to make the field class a shortened summer course and create online course options.
    - a. Members asked if TM/EM courses are exclusively online? They will investigate this further.
  12. Approved with friendly edits unanimously.
    - a. Friendly amendments: make thesis/nonthesis options available, correct total number of credits, align curriculum so it's not codified in catalog, make clear the connection with Water Resources.
- b. Updating TA Language in FSH, COGS website, and Catalog- see attachment
- i. FSH 1565, H-2
    1. Changed language to include the requirement that grad students must be in "good academic standing".
    2. <https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/1565.html>
    3. Approved unanimously
  - ii. College of Graduate Studies Website
    1. Follows language form other sources more closely.
  - iii. 2020-2021 Catalog- Assistantships and Research Fellowships
    1. Makes expectations clear in catalog, clearly defines differences between positions. Outlines policies with payments as well.
    2. Should performance be evaluated every semester? We don't require this, but you can do it on a semester basis if you wish. Continuation of every assistantship is based on performance, and this performance can be evaluated at any time.
    3. Approved unanimously
- c. Adjust GRAD 720 language
- i. 2 semesters allowed for thesis/dissertation students, 1 allowed for non-thesis.
  - ii. Language about exceptions to the nonthesis 1 semester rule may be a good idea.
    1. Some students are having issues displaying work to culminate their degree because of the pandemic. Most students move to online options for showcasing work if possible.
  - iii. Language will be brought to council next week

Meeting adjourned at 4:44

Future Meetings:

2/17/2021

3/10/2021

4/7/2021

*All meetings will be on Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Pacific) via Zoom*