Report on the Activities of the
Graduate Curriculum Committee
2004-2005

The Graduate Curriculum Committee of the academic year 2004-2005 met three times (October 27, February 7, April 6) and had a round of e-mail discussion (in June-July) when the scheduling of a fourth meeting in the summer proved problematic. All the members of the committee attended every meeting or provided helpful input via e-mail in case of a scheduling conflict. Consensus was generally reached on matters that came up for a vote. In case of an occasional dissenting critique on some point in a proposal, the submitting department was informed of the minority recommendation and was asked (but not required) to consider it before taking the proposal to the next level of approval.

The members of the committee were:
- Marta Antón, World Languages and Cultures
- William Blomquist, Political Science
- Robert Barrows, History
- Ain Haas, Sociology (committee chairperson)
- Robert Rebein, English

Associate Dean David Ford represented the dean’s office at our meetings.

One major program addition was approved, the Ph.D. Minor in History.

One major program revision was approved, the Internship Option in lieu of a Master’s Thesis in Sociology.

Seven new courses were approved, some after resubmission to clear up ambiguities or inconsistencies regarding overlap with other course offerings, worthiness for graduate credit (or distinctiveness from similar undergraduate courses), grading scale, nature of assignments, etc.

ENG W 504 Introduction to Writing and Literacy Studies
ENG W 505 Graduate Creative Nonfiction Writing
ENG W 508 Graduate Creative Writing for Teachers
ENG W 531 Designing and Editing Visual Technical Communication
MSTD A 560 Current Topics in Museum Studies
MSTD A 595 Independent Learning in Museum Studies
PHST P890 Dissertation

Five new variable subtitle requests were approved:

HIST H 509 Topics in European History:
Martin Luther and the Reformation in Germany
HIST  H 511  Topics in United States History: America in the 1950s
MSTD  A 560  Current Topics in Museum Studies: American Indians in Film
MSTD  A 560  Current Topics in Museum Studies:
      Issues in Native American Representation
SOC  S 560  Graduate Topics in Sociology: Gender and Health

For three existing courses, changes in course titles and descriptions were approved:

SOC  R 551  Quantitative Methods in Sociology (from Sociological Research Methods)
SOC  R 556  Advanced Sociological Theory I (dropping subtitle)
SOC  R 557  Advanced Sociological Theory II (dropping subtitle)

For one existing course, a change in credit hours was approved:

COMM  C 597  Thesis  (from Variable 3-6 to Fixed 3)

Two course requests were tabled, pending submission of more information to the committee:

AMST  G 603  Introduction to American Studies
ENG  L 678  Literature and Medicine

One other unresolved issue that came up relates to the charge of the committee. We did not have a statement regarding the jurisdiction, powers, and reporting responsibility of the committee. This did not hamper our work, but it might be helpful to clarify these issues for next year’s committee.

Submitted by Ain Haas
Sept. 23, 2005