

CGC Meeting

February 8, 2018

Present: Glenn Chambers (AAAS), Les Hutchinson (student representative), Guests Chet McLeskey (Asst. Professor-PHL) and Robert Pennock (Dean, Lyman Briggs); Alan Munn (LIN), Shannon Schweitzer (THR), Safoi Babana-Hampton (RCS), Liz Mittman (GRM), Jose' Badillo-Carlos (student representative), Justus Nieland (ENG), Associate Dean Bill Hart-Davidson, Shawn Loewen (SLS), Charlene Polio (LIN), Ben VanDyke (AAHD)

Guest Speakers—Chet McLeskey and Dean Robert Pennock—Responsible Conduct of Research Training

Associate Dean Hart-Davidson introduced Professor McLeskey and Dean Pennock, who are involved with developing Responsible Conduct of Research workshops. The question is: what is it to be an excellent scientist? Responsible conduct should flow organically out of what it means to be an excellent scholar. These workshops are also designed to foster a culture where questions can be addressed. The original work has been focused on the sciences and medicine, but it is beginning to reach out to the humanities. They are asking for assistance in developing a curriculum that will help fulfill the RCR requirement that can be adapted to humanities. Hart-Davidson has suggested Philosophy, WRAC and English to start conversation of the adaptation of the workshops, due to the number of graduate students in these programs.

Professor Nieland asked McLeskey if he was aware of the workshop the Graduate School is offering on RCR. Dean Pennock said this is a different approach, and The Graduate School currently does not have the capacity to meet the demand. The framework is broad and the hope is to offer this to the university as a whole. The College of Arts and Letters has agreed to be a pilot in this. Professor Munn asked in the work already done, is there some already started in the social sciences? Hart-Davidson added that what attracted him was the way this takes an ethical approach to scholarship seriously. Professor Mittman asked if this would be a replacement for the CITI modules, and Hart-Davidson said no, it would augment it. He told the group if they are interested in pursuing this as an option, to let him know, and he would get folks connected with Professor McLeskey or Dean Pennock.

Approvals of the Agenda and Minutes of December 14, 2017. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and minutes.

Action Items: Graduate Certificate in Film Studies (Justus Nieland)—Nieland worked on this with Professor Joshua Yumibe, the Director of Film Studies. This is a formalization and a way to make transcriptable what has been done in the past with the English graduate students. Approximately twenty percent of graduate students in English incorporate some portion of film studies into their program. The hope is that this will not just assist the graduate students in English, but across the College and University as well.

Some of the proposed new courses can be cross-listed with advanced undergraduate courses.

Courses: FLM 800, 810, 820, 855

Hart-Davidson opened the floor for questions. Schweitzer asked about 820 (Topics in Film Studies)—which is similar to a course taught in Theatre. Hart-Davidson commented that one thing that occurs when a new program is instituted is that it makes visible work that has often been done organically. He called the question, and both the program and new courses were unanimously approved.

Dean Long entered to thank the Council for the work done on behalf graduate students. He reiterated the idea of creating a culture of care for one another, and trying to bring what he learned from his experiences at Penn State to bear on the present situation. He added there will be conversation around the Language School, and trying to keep a culture of honesty and candor. Munn commented that perhaps we need responsible conduct of administrators training, and Ms. Hutchinson added that also something is needed for graduate students teaching undergraduates. Dean Long said one of the emerging good things coming out of this is that all the deans in the university have begun talking to each other, and trying to nurture that community. He asked that while units think about what to do, to consider reaching out to other units throughout the university. As an example, Hart-Davidson said regarding the Film Studies Graduate Certificate and related courses, to Nieland and Yumibe's credit, first they went to their chair, and discussed how this could be developed to interest a wider number of students.

The question was called, and both the program and the new courses were unanimously approved. Hart-Davidson took a few moments to explain the routing of new courses and programs to the group.

New Course PHL 830—Hart-Davidson offered that since Professor Nelson was not able to be at the meeting today, he would circulate it for a vote next week. Since the description references a graduate course in Linguistics, it was agreed that Professor Polio would share this with Professor Morzycki in Linguistics.

Announcements

Hart-Davidson would like to hear from the members of any activities planned on behalf of their graduate students in light of recent events. He is happy to sponsor things at the college level. He told the group they need not wait for his approval.

From GAAD—In the past, if students have been traveling abroad and were not registered for at least one credit, they lost their library privilege. Currently it is a manual process, and graduate directors will have to contact the associate dean and staff, who will pass this information on to the library. Mittman asked if this also applied to students who may not be abroad, but not enrolled for a particular semester and need library access. Janet checked post-meeting with the Graduate School, and learned that the answer is that a student must be traveling on a prestigious scholarship. If there are questions on a case-by-case basis, graduate directors should contact The Graduate School.

New extension request process (via The Graduate School)—there are no new criteria in the process. There are some new documents requested. The form is now available on The Graduate School website. Hart-Davidson pointed out that the request for two years of annual reviews has already been problematic, because units all do that differently.

CAL's ongoing work to build a culture of care and student centered graduate programs—Hart-Davidson said that he felt that CAL has more student orientated programs versus being faculty oriented, which is

usually the status quo. He also said that he thinks there has been more transparency regarding how funds are disbursed for the programs.

Humanities Without Walls (HWW) awards—from WRAC and German; Krsna Santos (GRM) and Hannah Espinoza (WRAC). This opportunity is for students to explore alternative career paths in humanities.

March meeting—the usual date would be during MSU Spring Break, and the following week Hart-Davidson will be at a conference.

Reminder from Janet regarding competition deadlines and Graduate Office Funds. Hutchinson asked if a student on University fellowship could apply for a DCF, and unfortunately the answer is no, because the rules state that a student cannot hold a major award and also receive a DCF. Mr. Badillo-Carlos asked if a student could apply for a summer support fellowship and also a DCF, and the answer is yes.

Discussion item: Annual review process—Hart-Davidson asked Nieland to comment on how he is dealing with this in English. He replied that he is realizing that this has not been done, or been done in different ways, and he is trying to encourage his colleagues to adapt a more unified method. He said he recalled that several years ago in English, faculty were required to submit an evaluation for each graduate student of how they considered s/he performed in the course, but that has not been done for some time. Professor Schweitzer asked if that would not be reflected in the grade, and Nieland said yes, but a grade does not convey as much information. Hart-Davidson asked Hutchinson, who is from his home unit, WRAC, to comment on what is done there. She replied that students are expected to submit the work they have done in the past year. Schweitzer said that the faculty in Theatre have an hour-long meeting for each student, and they take notes, and have 24 hours to submit them. Nieland said that in some institutions, there is a meeting every year where the entire faculty come together to talk about all the graduate students. Hart-Davidson said he would put out a call and see if people want to share materials, forms, etc. He said that in Art, students have to submit to a critique. Hutchinson said the portfolio portion of the review is her favorite. Professor Babana-Hampton said in French the faculty suggest a plan of action for both MA and doctoral students.

Adjournment—the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.