SLIS Graduate Studies Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 12, 2011

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. SLIS Conference room

PRESENT: Rhonda Harris Taylor, Chair; Susan Burke (faculty member Fall 2010); Meg Wilson (Norman student member); Maggie Ryan (guest)

ITEM: Approval of November, 2011 minutes
ACTION: Accepted by consensus

ITEM: Spring 012 Comprehensive Examination orientation (Nov. 29)
INFORMATION:
--New format for comps offered Thursday April 12-Monday, April 16, 2012—orientation was held the evening of November 29, 2011 (delivered to Norman and Tulsa)
--S. Burke and R. Taylor, and C. Brown, and M. Ryan participated as presenters; handbook distributed and also FAQs (latter to be ongoing); no questions offered by audience; faculty have been reminded to send student questions to M. Ryan for FAQs
--there will still be some students taking the current format of comps in the spring of 012
--presentations at orientation recorded for posting on SLIS Web (handbook and FAQs are to be, also)

ITEM: Potential rubric for new comps format
INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION: (see handout on new format evaluation, previously shared by S. Burke in orientation for comps and with faculty at last faculty meeting)
--Comments from K. Latrobe and B. Martens via e-mail:
  Purpose of rubric for faculty and students
  Wording of statement that “solution that meets professional needs and expectations
  --wording on: “professional needs and expectations” verbatim in handbook for new format
  --professional program degree will inherently require meeting “professional needs and expectations”
  --current portfolio handbook for students has appendix that summarizes requirements covered in depth in handbook (for use by faculty evaluators and student); this handout could be used that way as well
  --the handout on evaluation will be provided to faculty at January meeting as proposed appendix of Summary of Evaluation Criteria for the new format handbook (guidelines)

ITEM: Potential release of the new format comps questions to the students, after the exam [current SLIS practice releases closed questions comps questions for last 2 years, post-exam
DISCUSSION/ACTION:
--an issue of accessibility by all students to the question that some students will have and share within their own networks
--Decision: recommendation from Committee to faculty at January meeting to share the last 4 questions for the new format with students

ITEM: Outlining a potential comps question for faculty consideration
DISCUSSION/ACTION: [by faculty members of committee, only]
S. Burke will devise a sample question for consideration by faculty
ITEM: Reviewing charges of committee: EPA issues

DISCUSSION: From October meeting—(postpone until have processes in place for new comps format)

Previous consideration:
--need to review guidelines for thesis and portfolio to see if changes needed
--consider how to gather data about student experiences with EPAs, esp. individualized ones like thesis and portfolio (possibly a generic form; possibly part of exit interview; possibly hold survey 2 years and then look at; possibly ask the alumni on the regularly administered surveys)

Current discussion: Return to topic in spring, after processes in place for new comps

What want to accomplish in looking at EPA post-evaluations (look at instruments being used):
1) Did student know what was expected? Did EPA meet student expectations?
2) If didn’t know what was expected, why? That is, was it because the expectation wasn’t adequately conveyed, or other reasons?
3) Did the EPA process enhance the overall learning experience? How (as preparation/understanding for career, what learned, etc.)
4) Did coursework prepare student for EPA (did specific courses do this?)

ITEM: Certification of Eligibility for University Sponsored K-12 Programs, OU [from from OU Administration regarding felony convictions and Sex Offenders Registration Act]—form to be signed by students

DISCUSSION:
Consideration of this form for internships:
--should it be used in all internships (due to potential exposure to vulnerable populations beyond minors?)
--since it cites an Okla. Stat. (589), should it be restricted to K-12 schools?
--are the issues it raises something that should be covered in an ethics component for all students, at the beginning of the program (currently GAs do have a mandatory OU ethics training, related to research)?
--should it also include placements in public libraries in youth services?

Topic to be placed on spring meeting agenda

Next Meetings (Spring 012): ?