MINUTES
GRADUATE BOARD
October 10, 2016

PRESENT:  C. Creech, M. Deibis, M. Finney, T. Hemphill, V. Lotfi (Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs), B. Maki, M. Mani, A. Ojelabi (Student), K. Schilling, S. Turner

ABSENT:    S. Selig (at conference)

1. Minutes from September 26, 2016 were approved with one change.

2. Proposal to Update the Policy on Admission in the Graduate Study Section of the University of Michigan – Flint Catalog
   • Background: The UM-Flint Catalog lists minimum requirements for admission to any graduate program. Applicants to any program must meet these minimal requirements in addition to any requirements of the proposed program of study in order to be considered for admission. When the current policy was written, UM-Flint only offered graduate programs that had the bachelor’s degree as the minimum admission requirement. Since then, several programs have been added that have different degree-level requirements (master’s, specialist, doctoral, or associate’s) that is not covered in the policy in terms of meeting the regional accreditation test. This proposal would update the policy to ensure the minimum degree required for admission would be from a regionally-accredited institution.
   • Proposed Language in Admission Section:

     Students who have earned the bachelor's degree at from a regionally-accredited college or university in the United States, or its equivalent in another country, that meets the minimum degree requirement for a given program of study are considered for admission without regard to sex, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, handicap, or Vietnam-era veteran status. See the appropriate section below for admission requirements specific to the various degree programs.

     An applicant who holds a degree from outside the United States that is not the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor’s degree may be granted conditional admission to a degree program upon the recommendation of the director of the graduate program and the concurring opinion of the Dean of Graduate Programs. Such an admission decision will be based on a careful evaluation of the applicant’s qualifications, acceptable evidence of the institution’s competence in the student’s principal areas of preparation, and other relevant factors. If granted conditional admission, the student may be required to complete a number of hours of graduate or upper-level undergraduate qualifying course work. Note: Current Rackham School of Graduate Studies policy does not allow admission of students with three-year bachelor’s degrees. Therefore, this policy does not apply to Rackham programs at UM-Flint.

   • The Graduate Board approved the proposed policy change contingent upon the full support of the Program Directors. The proposal will also be presented to the Program Directors at a future fall meeting.
3. Review Guidelines for Approval of New Graduate Programs
   - The Board discussed the idea of streamlining the Guidelines for the Approval of New Graduate Programs in an effort to encourage departments to continue to develop new graduate programs.
   - The current UM-Flint practice for new graduate programs includes approvals from: department, unit, school/college, Graduate Board, Provost/AAAC, and Chancellor/CAS/BSP. New Ann Arbor graduate programs are approved by the department, unit, school/college and Rackham Executive Board only.
     - The suggestion was to eliminate the Chancellor/CAS/BSP approval and send the proposal to the Provost who could share with the AAAC if necessary (but not required).
   - There were additional suggestions for adding a section on programs that are in moratorium, updating verbiage for President’s Council reference, updating the section on cross-listed courses, and updating the section regarding joint programs.
   - The document will be edited and reviewed again at the next meeting to determine if the changes are sufficient. No vote was taken at this meeting.
   - If approved, the changes would go into effect Fall 2017.
   - It may be necessary to update language in the Faculty Code as well.

4. Matters Arising
   - It was suggested that the future meeting date be added to the agenda.

Next meeting: 10/24/16 @ 2:00pm in the Graduate Programs Conference Room