

**Graduate Council Meeting**  
**February 19, 2009**  
**Minutes**

Present: Frances Cai, Ellen Frye, Rochelle Kaplan, Susan Sabatino, Liana Fornarotto  
Guests: Steve Hahn, Linda Hamalian, John Parras, Andrew Barnes, Vince Parrillo  
Absent: Kem Louie, Robin Schwartz, Dorothy Feola

1. The minutes of the January 22, 2009 meeting were approved.

2. Representatives from the English Department (Linda Hamalian, John Parras, and Andrew Barnes) presented their proposal for a new MFA program in Creative Writing. They noted that since we received the proposal, the program has been revised to contain a Professional Writing component and will be called an MFA in Creative and Professional Writing. Notes on the revisions were also shared.

The Council agreed that the program seemed solid and should be recommended for implementation to the full Senate. However, before it can do this, the English Department will need to send the Council the full revised proposal with all the changes that were discussed. The Council will then complete its review and make its recommendation to the Senate.

3. Vince Parrillo represented the proposal for a 12- credit certificate program in Assessment and Evaluation Research. This certificate program is made up of 4 courses offered within the existing M.A. program in Applied Sociology and is intended for an audience that is outside of the M.A. program, although these students may decide to matriculate in the master's program. The only problem the Council found with the proposal was that it would offer a certificate through the WPU Continuing Education Department. This kind of certificate is not appropriate for graduate courses offered through a master's degree program and it is also not linked to any professional organization or accrediting body. The Council recommended that the certificate (which is not to be confused with professional certification) be offered through the Department of Sociology. Steve Hahn said that he would look into WPU's ability and the internal process for offering such academic certificates.

The Council also suggested that applicants to the certificate program meet some entry level criteria. Vince agreed that a Bachelor's degree in any major, one statistics course, an undergraduate GPA of 3.0, and successful performance on a writing sample would be used as entry criteria.

The Council approved recommendation of the program as revised, pending clarification of the certificate issuing process. It also requested that the Sociology Department submit the revised program to the Graduate Council before it makes its recommendation to the Senate.

4. The Council members will share their views with one another online on recommended changes to the existing Academic Program Change Proposal form in order to include elements of the New Academic Planning Principles document.

5.If needed, the next meeting of the Graduate Council will take place on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. in Valley 3024. In the meantime, we should email any thoughts we have re: additions and changes to the Academic Program Change Proposal to ALL members of the Council.

Submitted by,  
Rochelle Goldberg Kaplan