

NFSC GPC Meeting Minutes  
9:00 AM February 22, 2016  
Cater-Mattil 124A

Members present: N. Turner, C. Gomes, R. Chapkin, S. Riechman, G. Acuff, C. Wu, St. Talcott, K. de Ruiten

Members absent: E. Castell-Perez, E. Murano

Agenda

1. January meeting minutes approved
2. Planning for External Review – what is needed from/asked of GPC and all graduate faculty members
  - a. A draft of the review should be available for faculty review within the next two weeks. The administration and advisors are working on data collection.
  - b. The GPC will be asked to meet with the external review panel while they are here. Review will take place April 24 through April 26.
3. Report of the Nutrition Curriculum Committee
  - a. NUTR Graduate Curriculum Committee proposals
    - i. The committee recommends that 2 new core courses be created and that all M.S. and Ph.D. Nutrition students be required to take these courses in their first year or when they have remediated the prerequisites for the program. The content will address knowledge related to the effects of nutrients/non nutrients at the a) cellular level, including metabolism and inter organ physiological chemistry, b) subcellular level, e.g., effects of dietary nutrients/non nutrients on signal transduction, epigenetics, and c) whole body nutrient action. The courses may be team-taught. If approved by the GPC and full graduate faculty we propose that the graduate handbook be edited to reflect these changes.
    - ii. The committee is proposing the following as prerequisites to beginning the required coursework for the MS and PhD degrees in nutrition. We suggest that the prerequisites not be required to apply to the program, but any portion that a student does not have would need to be remediated prior to participating in the core courses proposed above. If approved by the GPC and full graduate faculty we propose that the graduate handbook be edited to reflect these changes.
      1. Chemistry – 2 semesters with lab
      2. Organic Chemistry – 1 semester with lab (1 additional semester recommended)
      3. Biology – 1 semester with lab (1 additional semester recommended)
      4. Biochemistry – 1 semester (1 additional semester recommended)
      5. Nutrition - 1 semester
  - b. GPC Recommendations for development of core NUTR courses
    - i. GPC approves recommendation of 2 new core courses. Proposal should go back to the curriculum committee for further development.

- ii. At least one lab should be added to one of the core courses.
    - iii. Full graduate faculty should be involved in the development of the two core courses.
  - c. GPC recommends requesting UPC bring lab courses up for discussion to increase the laboratory knowledge of undergraduates.
- 4. Feedback from Dr. Chew concerning teacher involvement/expectations for new faculty
  - a. New faculty will be involved in development of new core courses.
- 5. Assessment challenges for communication skills
  - a. The assessment committee requested help from the GPC with one of the department's graduate assessment goals: "At least 90% of all graduate students will meet or exceed written and oral communication skills at the time of final defense and annual evaluation". The committee needs a way to assess non-thesis students.
  - b. The curriculum committee is currently working on a non-thesis proposal that includes a written review paper. This proposed writing requirement could be used to address the communication assessment.
- 6. Overall goals for 2016 (Challenges and Opportunities)
  - a. R. Chapkin recommended that the committee review the Biochemistry Department's PreProposal guidelines and possibly adopt something similar. K. de Ruitter will forward this document and the NFSC graduate handbooks to the GPC for review prior to the next GPC meeting.
- 7. Recruitment efforts – individual vs. programmatic
  - a. College Merit fellowship nominations being accepted.
  - b. R. Chapkin suggested the GPC contact Biochemistry Department to get more information about their recruitment/admissions process.