

Advanced Programs Governance Committee (APGC) – Minutes for October 6, 2014

Present: Michelle Bryan, Edward Cox, Kathleen Marshall, Lucy Spence, Spencer Platt, David Stodden, Rob Dedmon (ex-officio), Elna Moses (guest)

The meeting began with a discussion regarding electing a committee chair for 2014-2015. Dr. Lucy Spence volunteered to serve as chair and the committee approved. Dr. Spence asked others to consider serving as secretary for the committee. No one volunteered and the position of secretary was not decided.

The committee discussed revising the College of Education Policies and Procedures Governing Advanced Programs regarding doctoral comprehensive exams. Mr. Dedmon provided a double column comparison of the current College of Education Policy and the Graduate School Bulletin (attached). Each member of the committee discussed what they do in their own departments regarding doctoral comprehensive exams. Ms. Moses indicated that the current COE policy was written in the 1970s. The committee reached consensus that the College policy is overly specific in its requirements and needs to better reflect the Graduate School policy. Dr. David Stodden suggested to include a statement that students should refer to program guidelines for specific program requirements. It was moved by Dr. Edward Cox to recommend to the COE Steering Committee that the faculty vote to change the COE policy to match that of the Graduate School and include the statement that students should refer to program guidelines for specific program requirements. Dr. Stodden seconded the motion. The committee approved the recommendation unanimously.

The committee was adjourned.

Comparison of COE Policy on Doctoral Comprehensive Assessment vs. the Graduate Bulletin

<p>COE Policies and Procedures Governing Advanced Programs (Doctoral Examinations)</p>	<p>Graduate Studies Bulletin Written and Oral Comprehensive Examination (Doctoral Programs)</p>
<p>2. Comprehensive Examination: At the time recommended by the doctoral committee chair in accordance with program guidelines, each student must complete satisfactorily a comprehensive examination with written and oral portions based upon study in education and the student's cognate field. Before taking this examination the candidate should have completed all or be enrolled in the last of the course work originally prescribed and have at least a "B" average on all course work completed on the doctoral level at the University of South Carolina. The written portion of the examination will be scheduled for 9-12 hours. The oral portion of the examination will last approximately two hours. The oral examination is to be administered within one month of the written examination. A doctoral comprehensive examination must be completed not less than 60 days nor more than 5 years from the date of graduation.</p> <p>a. Scale: Pass with Honors, Pass or Fail for written portion of exam. Pass or Fail for oral portion of exam. Pass with Honors may be earned only on the first administration of the test.</p> <p>b. Scorers: The student's doctoral examination committee shall grade the examination. Additional members may be appointed when needed to assure expertise in the subject areas covered by the student's courses.</p> <p>c. Procedures for Evaluation of Student Performance: At the completion of the oral portion of the examination, each member of the student's doctoral committee votes on the grade as Pass, Pass with Honors, or Fail. A majority of the members' decisions must be Pass or Pass with Honors for the student to receive a grade of Pass or Pass with Honors on the examination.</p> <p>d. Retaking the Examination: A student who does not successfully complete the examination or designated portions on the first attempt may take the examination a second time. The chair of</p>	<p>Candidates must pass a written and oral comprehensive examination conducted by the student's academic program under the direction of the Written and Oral Comprehensive Examination Committee. This Committee must be comprised of no fewer than four members, at least one of whom must be from outside the candidate's major department. Normally, the comprehensive examination is given after the candidate has completed all course work on the program of study except for courses in which the student may be currently registered. The comprehensive examination may not be given less than 60 days before the student receives the degree.</p> <p>Note: Certification of the comprehensive examination for doctoral students remains valid for five years from the academic term taken, after which it must be revalidated.</p>

the doctoral committee, in accordance with program guidelines, will determine the appropriate time for retaking the exam. Students failing the exam a second time are disqualified from further graduate study 14 toward a doctoral degree in the College of Education.

e. Final Recommendation for Student's Curriculum: If the student passes the examination, the examining committee shall determine the additional courses, if any, the student shall be required to take for the Ph.D. Additional courses can be added to the student's program if a majority of the examining committee members sees a need for additional course work to remedy weaknesses. This shall represent the final opportunity for the faculty to add to the student's course requirements.