Present: S. Doederlein (CLAS), D. Ballantine (CHEM), J. Groves (ECON), F. Jaeger (FL&L), M. Lenczewski (GEOL), D. Macdonald (ENGL)

Absent: W. Creamer (ANTH)

A. Action on Minutes
Minutes from the #10 meeting on February 13, 2013, have been approved online and forwarded to the catalog editor.

B. Curriculum – Old Business
None

D. Curriculum – New Business

Department of Geography
The committee approved revisions to GEOG 507 and the M.S. program description.

Department of Philosophy
The committee approved revisions to PHIL 631 and the M.A. requirements.
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Course Revision: Page 217, 2012-13 Graduate Catalog

507. TECHNICAL HAZARDS (3). Study of the spatial… Emphasis on risk perception, risk analysis, hazard assessment and hazard management from geospatial and cultural perspectives. Lecture and laboratory. PRQ: GEOG 557 or consent of department.

Rationale: Consistency with GEOG 407.

Other Catalog Change: Page 216, 2012-13 Graduate Catalog

Department of Geography (GEOG, MET)
↓
Master of Science in Geography

The department welcomes… credit toward the degree.

The three core courses, GEOG 604, GEOG 661 and GEOG 663, must each be completed with a grade of B- or better. Students failing to achieve the minimum grade in these courses, or maintain an overall graduate GPA of 3.0, will be dismissed from the program.

Requirements
GEOG 600 – Geography Seminar (1/2) (must accumulate at least 2 semester hours prior to graduation; hours do not count toward required hours for the degree)
↓
Satisfactory performance on a comprehensive written examination.
Satisfactory completion of the requirements for either the thesis or non-thesis option.
↓

Rationale: Faculty are concerned with a recent increase in the proportion of MS students who finish all coursework but fail to make progress on a thesis and leave without completing the degree. Analysis shows that many of these also performed less than satisfactorily in one or more of the three required core courses. Since nearly all MS students perform satisfactorily (B or better) in elective coursework, the GPA requirement alone is not sufficient to flag students for removal from the program. As these are core courses required of everyone, the faculty agreed that a minimum grade of B- should provide ample evidence of ability and desire to complete the degree. This catalog language was approved unanimously by the department’s graduate faculty.

Oral comprehensive Masters exams appear to be the norm in the discipline. Given that MS students are required to present their thesis or non-thesis research at a department colloquium and also at a professional meeting, the department faculty felt that the extra preparation for a written exam might be excessive. However, there may be instances when a committee prefers a written exam to an oral one. Hence the graduate faculty unanimously accepted the recommendation to remove the work “written.”
Department of Philosophy

Course Revision: Page 245, 2012-13 Graduate Catalog

631. ADVANCED ETHICAL THEORY (3).
   A. Survey of Contemporary Problems
   B. Special Topics
   PHIL 631B may be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours provided no repetition of subject matter occurs. PRQ: Graduate standing in philosophy or consent of department.

Rationale: None of the other 600-level courses have ADVANCED in the title, and it’s not necessary for a 600-level course.

Other Catalog Change: Page 244, 2012-13 Graduate Catalog

Department of Philosophy (PHIL)
↓
Master of Arts in Philosophy
↓
Ethics and Value Theory (6)
PHIL 530 - Topics in Ethics (3)
↓
PHIL 631 - Advanced Ethical Theory (3)
PHIL 642 - Aesthetics (3)
↓

Rationale: Title to be the same as in the course description of PHIL 631, Ethical Theory.