

Graduate Academic and Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2015

Attending: John Yarie, Jayne Harvie, Don Hampton, Daryl Farmer, Mitchell Reed, Mike Daku, Donie Bret-Harte (by phone), Anne Boudreau (by phone)

**I. Minutes** from our meeting of 9/23/15 were passed.

**II. GAAC discussed updates from the graduate school** provided by Mike Castellini (neither Mike nor Laura Bender could attend today). The topic of digital vs. physical signature pages was discussed further. Jayne and Donie clarified that GAAC approval is not required, though the Graduate School wants our opinions. Anne Boudreau polled her faculty, and they approved of secure digital signatures (not unsecure ones). This was the consensus in GAAC last time we discussed the issue, but is not reflected in Mike's email. John Yarie asked whether the library keeps printed copies of theses. Individual departments keep printed copies, but at present the library is retaining only digital copies (pdfs). How secure this will be for the future as technology changes is an important issue, but is separate from the signature issue.

The issue of health insurance for graduate students was also discussed further. Several people expressed that relying on the individual market set up under the Affordable Care Act would likely pose a problem for many graduate students. Anne asked whether faculty could contact the graduate school directly if they have concerns about this issue. We believe that the answer is yes. We encourage GAAC members to contact their colleagues to make them aware of the changing situation; their colleagues can contact GAAC or contact the Graduate School (Mike Castellini) directly. Don asked whether UAF would become less competitive in attracting graduate students, which seems like a distinct possibility. Anne noted that some students in Juneau purchase their

**III. Updates on current a**  
proposal:  
**3-GNC: New Course:**