

Faculty in attendance: Josh Armstrong, John Carriero, Adam Crager, Sam Cumming, Barbara Herman, AJ Julius, David Kaplan, Calvin Normore, Michael Rescorla, Sherri Roush

Grad Reps attending: Jungsuk Lee

Approval of minutes of March 4th meeting (10-0)

Report of graduate student views of the MA Proposal by Jungsuk Lee.

The proposal to make the MA degree (and hence passing the MAC exam) a requirement of the Ph.D., and thereby making it possible for those students who already have an MA in Philosophy to get an MA in Philosophy from UCLA (a duplicate MA), was favored by 20 of 25 graduate students who commented. Other qualitative comments were also shared.

Motion 1: MA a requirement for Ph.D - Change Graduate Division Records and Webpage thus (addition in red):

The Department of Philosophy offers the Master of Arts (M.A.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in Philosophy. **Those who earn a Ph.D. will also, in the process, earn an M.A., as described below. The M.A. degree is thus a requirement for the Ph.D.**

Motion 2: Timing of the MAC exam - Change the Graduate Manual in Philosophy thus:

From:

The MAC Exam is based on material covered in the Seminar for First-Year Graduate Students (200A–C). It is given in three parts, each part covering one quarter of the Seminar and typically administered by the instructor for that quarter at the beginning of the next. (The instructor for 200A typically administers the MAC Exam for 200A at the beginning of Winter quarter; the instructor for 200B typically administers the MAC Exam for 200B at the beginning of Spring quarter; but the instructor for 200C typically administers the MAC Exam for 200C during the last week of Spring quarter.)

To:

The MAC Exam is based on material covered in the Seminar for First-Year Graduate Students (200A–C). It is given in three parts, each part covering one quarter of the Seminar and is administered by the instructor for that quarter no later than the first week of the following quarter, though. the MAC Exam for 200C must be administered during the last week of Spring quarter.

Motion 3 – Passing the MAC exam

From:

The examination is passed or failed as a whole, which does not necessarily require passing of all three parts. Passage of the MAC exam is a necessary condition for being awarded the MA degree. The Department does not require any written examination to be passed by students as a condition of advancing to candidacy. It does, however, require each student to take the Master's Comprehensive Examination, which the Department may use for diagnostic purposes.

To (Option D):

The examination is passed or failed as a whole, but cannot be passed if one fails all three parts. Students will be given the opportunity to re-take any part of the exam that they have failed. Passage of the MAC exam is a necessary condition for being awarded the MA and the PhD degrees.

All motions passed in a vote in the meeting: Yes: 10, No: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 10.

Difficulties arose after the meeting:

1. A curriculum change is a substantial matter, and should be voted on electronically after the meeting, to make it possible for everyone to vote.
2. A request for an electronic vote had been made by email by a non-attending colleague before the meeting, though the message only reached the Chair's email account during the meeting, so was not read in time.
3. When the question was called, the chair did not ask whether anyone had objections to ending the discussion and voting.
4. It is unclear whether the changes proposed in the three motions are consistent with this paragraph of the Graduate Division Records and Webpage which has been interpreted in departmental practice as not including a requirement to *pass* the MAC exam:

The department does not require a separate written examination to be passed by students as a condition of advancement to doctoral candidacy. It does, however, require each student to take all three parts of the master's comprehensive examination by the end of the student's first year (according to the description and schedule given above) to give the department evidence of proficiencies and deficiencies. This examination therefore serves as the doctoral written qualifying examination. For advancement to candidacy, students must pass a preliminary oral qualifying examination as described below.

5. Other concerns raised: 1) That option D in not giving a sufficient condition for passing the MAC could be used to apply different standards to those wishing to have an MA and those going on for the PhD but not wanting an MA, without making that clear ahead of time to students, 2) It is not clear whether there is a standard for passing the MAC that we will find weak enough not to be an unhelpful impediment to those going on to the PhD, but robust enough that we will be comfortable granting an MA if someone is leaving the program at that stage.

6. Another proposal was suggested:

To define two different ways of getting an MA on the way to the Ph.D. One can pass the MAC (in some robust sense), or one can (fail the MAC but) get an MA when the Proposition is passed. An MA would be required for the Ph.D. (because passing the Proposition is required for the Ph.D.), and passing the MAC would be required for someone to get an MA if they exit early, but passing the MAC would not be required for the Ph.D.

Discussion was carried on by email but did not result in a new motion.