

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2021

Members Present:

Allan, Craig – Geography and Earth Sciences
Azarbayjani, Mona – The School of Architecture
Fenwick, Abbey – Kinesiology
Godev, Concepción – Languages & Culture Studies and Graduate Council Chair
Lachance, Joan – Middle, Secondary & K-12
Lai, Gene – Finance
Miller, Elizabeth (Liz) – English
Morse, Ed – Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science
Mostafavi, Taghi – Computer Science
Prasad, Ritika – History (alternate for Kent Brintnall, Religious Studies)
Reynolds, Tom – Graduate School
Sung, Way – Bioinformatics and Genomics (alternate for Taghi Mostafavi)
Suptela, Alex – PhD Candidate, BIOL/Graduate Student Representative (GPSG)
Truesdale, Angel – Atkins Library

Also Attending:

Goodliffe, Julie, Graduate School
Hall-Hertel, Katherine – Graduate School
Krause, Sandy – Graduate School
Morse, Janet – Graduate School
Names-Mattefs, Alaina – Liberal Arts & Sciences
Rowan, Diana – School of Social Work
Watson, Johnna – Graduate School
White, Brian – Graduate School
Wyse, Matt – Faculty Governance, Office of the Provost

I. Report of the Chair – Dr. Concepcion Godev

A. Approval of the December 1, 2020 Graduate Council Meeting minutes.

Allan made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted with a second from Suptela. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Annual Performance of the Dean of the Graduate School

This function is performed in the spring. A subcommittee of three members from within the Graduate Council are selected to serve on this committee. Dr. Craig Allan has volunteered to serve as the Chair. Chair Godev asked for two more volunteers to serve with Allan.

II. Report of the Graduate School Dean – Dr. Tom Reynolds

Dean Reynolds reported on the following:

- Spring enrollment set a record total 28,151 students with 5,805 graduate students. Spring enrollment is always lower than fall but these numbers are close to fall numbers.
- Graduate applications for fall are also up for both domestic and international students.
- The number of students graduating in the fall was up 52 doctoral grads compared to 35 for last fall. There were 495 master's students compared to 448 and 262 Graduate Certificate students compared to 144.
- So despite all of the challenges with the pandemic and remote instruction, you all are enrolling record numbers, retaining record numbers, and graduating record numbers of graduate students.
- As you may know, the Board of Governors had stopped the processing and review of new degree proposals. That hiatus has ended and our proposed Ph.D. in nursing is once again moving forward through the system. The System Office did modify the review somewhat. The procedures are pretty much unchanged but there is more emphasis on the programs to demonstrate student demand for the degree, societal need and the ability to support the degree financially. Previously only doctoral proposals needed to show costs, funding, and budget analysis. Now it is required for all degree proposals.

III. **Course and Curriculum Proposals**

A. ARCH 5050 – Architecture Topics

Originator: Mona Azarbayjani, School of Architecture

Graduate Council Assignments: Craig Allan, Kent Brintnall and Abbey Fenwick

A motion was made by Allan with a second from Mostafavi to approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

B. EMGT 6112 – Introduction to Dynamic Programming and Optimal Control

Originator: Churlzu Lim, Systems Engineering & Engineering Management

Graduate Council Assignments: Craig Allan, Kent Brintnall and Abbey Fenwick

A motion was made by Allan with a second from Mostafavi to approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

C. EMGT 6116 – System Identification and Reinforcement Learning

Originator: Churlzu Lim, Systems Engineering & Engineering Management

Graduate Council Assignments: Craig Allan, Kent Brintnall and Abbey Fenwick

A motion was made by Allan with a second from Mostafavi to approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

D. Graduate Faculty Appointment Criteria & Procedures

Originator: Mark Hall, Department Chair, Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies
Graduate Council Assignments: All Graduate Council Members assigned

A motion was made by Mostafavi with a second from Allan to approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

E. KNES 6171 – Advanced Biomechanics

Originator: Susan Arthur, Kinesiology

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai, and Alex Suptela

A motion was made by Suptela with a second from Miller to approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

F. KNES 6282 – Skeletal Muscle for Health and Disease

Originator: Susan Arthur, Kinesiology

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai, and Alex Suptela

A motion was made by Suptela with a second from Miller to approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

G. NUNP 6251 – Advanced Acute and Preventative Care of Adults

Originator: David Langford, School of Nursing

Graduate Council Assignments: Mona Azarbayjani, Joan Lachance, Gene Lai, and Alex Suptela

A motion was made by Suptela with a second from Miller to approve the proposal as submitted. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

H. SOWK 7114 – Clinical Social Work: Ethics, Theories and Application

Originator: Diana Rowan, School of Social Work

Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse and Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions to the proposal and syllabus:

- Change the name in the proposal to SOWK 7114 and cross-lists with a 6000 level course.

Miller made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Morse. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

I. SOWK 5365 – Grief and Loss over the Lifespan

Originator: Diana Rowan, School of Social Work

Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse and Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions:

- Include support memo from Gerontology.
- Revise syllabus to include cross-listing with GRNT 5365

Mostafavi made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

- J. SOWK 6134 – Family Caregiving across the Lifespan: Theory, Research & Policy
Originator: Diana Rowan, School of Social Work
Graduate Council Assignments: Liz Miller, Ed Morse and Taghi Mostafavi

A discussion took place with the following requests for revisions:

- Include support memo from Gerontology.
- Revise syllabus to include content objectives.

Morse made a motion to approve the proposal pending revisions with a second from Lai. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

IV. Discussion Topics

A. Standardized Test Discussion – Johnna Watson, Graduate School

Chair Godev gave a recap of the topic which was first introduced to the Council at the November 3, 2020 meeting. The current policy is that anyone seeking graduate admission, must have completed a standardized test.

It has been suggested that we move to a more welcoming policy that defaults to no test requirement. Departments will have the option to still require an entrance exam if appropriate.

- Standardized tests are not foolproof. Certain biases can still be implicated.
- For some programs, the use of standardized tests can be very useful.
- Departments should have a matrix in place for admitting students holistically.
 - Test Optional – a student can opt to include their test scores as a part of their admission portfolio.
 - Test Blind – a program does not use test scores in order to be consistent.
- ETS is evaluating to offer different modules to measure certain skills to use when admitting students.
- The graduate school has waived test scores for programs for the last four semesters. As more national colleges are moving to this policy, we feel it's time to address this policy at UNC Charlotte.
 - The cost of testing can be prohibitive.
 - Studies show that white students typically test higher in verbal and math scores.
 - In lieu of test, programs can require a brief writing sample, a statement of purpose to address specific points.
 - Programs can require two out of three references be academic.
 - If a student has been out of school more than ten years, references will probably be professional.

Watson to submit a formal proposal for Graduate Council vote at the March 9, 2021 meeting.

- GEM (Graduate Enrollment Management) group is tasked with implementing the Graduate Student Funding Task Force recommendations.
 - One of the tasks has been to provide definitions for GA's (Graduate Assistants) and TA's (Teaching Assistants).

B. Grading Policy Discussion SP/UP Grades – continued from the October 6, 2020 Graduate Council Meeting – Sandy Krause, Graduate School

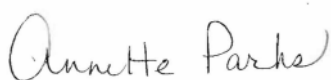
This item was moved earlier in the agenda. Chair Godev gave a recap of the previous discussion which was first introduced to the Graduate Council at the October 6, 2020 meeting. Sandy Krause, Graduate School, has formally submitted two proposals to address grading research as Satisfactory Progress (SP) and Unsatisfactory Progress (UP).

Miller made a motion to approve the proposals as submitted with a second from Lai. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 1:46pm.

Respectfully,



Annette Parks
Graduate Council Secretary