

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES**

February 17, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.

WEBEX

Council in Attendance:

Mike Wittie (Engineering)
Christopher Livingston (Architecture)
Lisa Davis (Letters & Science)
Tricia Seifert (Education)
Dawn Tarabochia (Health & Human Development)
Bradford Watson (Faculty Senate)
Catherine Dunlop (Letters & Science)
Marc Giullian (Business)
Wade Hill (Nursing)
Dennis Aig (Arts)
Craig Ogilvie (Dean of The Graduate School)
Sara Mannheimer (Library)
Que Vo (International Programs)

Also in Attendance:

Lauren Cerretti (Graduate School)
Emily Peters (Graduate School)

Absent:

Brock Smith (Agriculture)
Maureen Kessler (Student Representative)

Meeting started at 9:01 am on WebEx

February 3, 2021 minutes

- Motion to approve by Tarabochia, 2nd by Giullian,
 - Motion passes: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

Announcements

- **Graduate Dean update**
 - Kindness in Graduate Education Week: report random acts of kindness
 - Admissions applications up 40%
- **Faculty Senate update (Watson)**
 - Continuing to discuss 3 revisions to faculty handbook
 - Provost held small group listening sessions: discussion regarding changes to academic calendar
 - Polling faculty about priorities for 2022-2023 strategic plan goals

Old Business

- **Co-convening Policy Discussion**
 - Overview of Subcommittee's draft: focus on graduate experience first and undergraduate education and enrichment second. Potentially eliminate the need for policy limiting the number of co-convened courses.
 - Focus on graduate learning outcomes
 - Undergrads could have less assignments, but the atmosphere would be graduate level
 - Call for feedback:
 - Achieved goal of graduate level courses, instead of 4xx level course with a few extra assignments for graduate students
 - Item #1: only 4xx/5xx level courses may be co-convened
 - 3xx: global studies courses, learning another language could be a core part of graduate level curriculum
 - Should we review the 3xx level prohibited policy instead of allowing as co-convened?
 - There are existing exceptions for language courses: (ex: Art). Other programs could be added as an exception, if applicable.
 - Clarification: exception would just be for language courses
 - Continue to allow rare exceptions rather than change policy
 - Question regarding tuition waivers for 3xx level provisional courses: can these be eligible for tuition waivers?
 - Dean Ogilvie will confirm and send email to Council with more information
 - Item #5: enrollment of at least 50% graduate students
 - No matter how rigorous you make the course, if 90% enrolled are undergraduates, it's not truly a graduate course
 - Does the course get cancelled if enrollment doesn't meet the 50% mark?
 - Review logistical challenges of monitoring enrollment in each course
 - Suggested wording: co-convened course enrollment is recommended to be at least 50% graduate enrollment
 - Once a year could work with OPA to conduct analysis. Work with departments that don't meet the threshold on shifting to more of a graduate experience.
 - Item #6: 3.25GPA requirement for undergraduates
 - 3.25 or instructor permission, could be waived
 - Discussion on logistical challenges
 - Dean Ogilvie will ask Registrar's Office for feedback
 - Item #4 all 4xx level co-convened courses reviewed by UGC
 - Is reviewing 4xx level courses outside the scope of UGC?
 - If supposed to be a graduate level course, could be appropriate for graduate council to review it
 - Is long-term goal to eliminate co-convened courses and move to full graduate courses? Or is this a good pedagogical model to use co-convened courses?
 - Open discussion
 - Dean Ogilvie will ask registrar about item #6, subcommittee will revise based on UGC's feedback, revisit at next meeting
- **Certificates in Crop Breeding & Biotechnology and Plant Disease:**

- Open for comments on revised proposal:
 - Pg 4: addressed concern about students repeating 4xx/5xx level courses
 - Why is Crop Breeding in PSPP, Plant disease in Agriculture?
 - Not sure why – can ask for clarification, but does not need to impact vote
 - Are there any concerns with no financial aid eligibility?
 - Program will need to go through separate process to pursue financial aid eligibility; encourage all graduate certificates to apply
 - Does not have to be approved for financial aid before UGC approves
- Dunlop motions to approve the two certificates, second by Giullian
 - Motion passes: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
- **MENG-Civil Engineering & MENG-Environmental Engineering, Level II Proposal:** proposer working on revisions

New Business

- **Associate Graduate Faculty**
 - Overview: currently well-established senior research scientists and professionals that do not hold tenure track status cannot chair a graduate student committee. Policy proposed to allow these individuals to chair a committee. Eligibility would be reviewed by the department. Provides a path for departments to approve qualified members of our community to chair committees.
 - Do these associate faculty need to have the highest degree in their field, or not chair a committee above their highest level of degree? Should a master's chair be required to have completed a thesis before advising a thesis (versus coursework)?
 - Could put department in a potentially political situation making this decision
 - Research faculty or affiliate faculty may not be aware of all the requirements of exams/defense/etc. Open to this with flexibility for departments to figure out how this works in their departments.
 - Discussion on how this is different than the idea of “graduate faculty status” presented in the past
 - Associate graduate faculty would expand the tent instead of making it smaller. In contrast, graduate faculty status would have created a subset of tenure track faculty.
 - Workload/union aspect for NTTs: if NTT agrees to be a chair of a committee, could become a financial impact for the department to cover
 - Suggest revising “minimally qualified faculty” wording
 - What happens if NTT chair doesn't pass their affiliate faculty renewal? What happens to the student's committee?
 - Maybe appointments one year past expected graduation date
 - If expires, finish existing committees but not take on any new students
 - Is this something that research faculty want?
 - Feedback from directors that staff would be interested
 - Nursing would be interested—have many NTT faculty
 - NTT can't be paid with grant money
 - Suggest Faculty Affairs - subset of faculty senate – reviews the proposal
 - Dean Ogilvie will revise the proposal with UGC's feedback, check with NTT representative, then send update to Watson and Mannheimer to take to Faculty Affairs subcommittee, return to UGC

Adjourned at 10:28 am

Next scheduled meeting – March 3, 2021 WEBEX