

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Location: Webex due to pandemic

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Richard Anyah, Marina Astitha, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Christopher Blesso, Deborah Bolnick, Kristin Bott, Karen Bresciano (*Ex Officio*), Kelly Burke, Kenneth Couch, Jose Cruz, Mustapha Diaby, Hannah Dostal, Valerie Duffy, Niloy Dutta, David Embrick, Kristie Farrar, Megan Feely, Martin Han, Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio*), Rahul Kanadia, Todd Kravet, Barbara Kream (*Ex Officio*), Julia Kuzovkina, Jacqueline Loss, D. Betsy McCoach, Royce Mohan, Michael Morrell, Ovidiu Munteanu, Kenny Nienhusser, Michael O’Neill, William Ouimet, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary*), Dan Pejril, David Pierce, Chad Rittenhouse, Victoria Robinson, Beth Russell (sub for Preston Britner), Joel Salisbury, Irio Schiano (GSS), Kathy Segerson (*Ex Officio*), Anji Seth, Helena Silva, Prabhakar Singh, Victoria Smith, Ron Squibbs, Matthew Stuber (sub for Yongku Cho), Helene Swede, Rachel Theodore, Judith Thorpe, Penny Vlahos, Andrew Weimer, Michael Willig, Peter Zarrow, and Yuping Zhang.

Absent: Zeljko Boskovic, Preston Britner, Yongku Cho, Jennifer Dineen, Nathan Fiala, Susan Glenney, Mitch Green, Charles Mahoney, Eugene Pinkhassik, Alexander Russell, Aditya Tadinada, and Alexander Woodward.

Guests: Suzanne Wilson and Xinyu Zhao

1. The meeting was held on a Webex site due to the coronavirus.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Call to order. The meeting of the GFC for February 24, 2021 was called to order at 3:03 pm.
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting of the GFC were presented. There was a motion to accept the minutes offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number three (3) was passed unanimously without dissent.**
4. Report from the Graduate Student Senate. The GSS reviewed the information regarding the Master’s “along the way” and agree with the motion to clarify the language.
5. Agenda item number five (5) – Old Business (for voting)
 - a. **Advising by Retired Faculty: Proposal to change Section VIII.A.j of the GFC by-laws as follows:**
Current Language: A member of the University of Connecticut’s Graduate Faculty who has retired from active service may be considered for appointment as major advisor for a newly-admitted master’s or doctoral student. Application is made to the Executive Committee of The Graduate

School and requires submission of a curriculum vitae and the endorsement of the appropriate department or program head. The retired faculty member must present substantial evidence of ongoing research and scholarly activity in the field. Separate application is required for each newly-admitted student for whom a retired faculty member wishes to serve as major advisor. Such appointments are made by the Dean of The Graduate School with the advice of the Executive Committee.

Marked-up Copy of Proposed Changes: A member of the University of Connecticut's Graduate Faculty who has retired from active service may be considered for appointment as major advisor for a newly-admitted master's or doctoral student. Application is made to the Executive Committee of The Graduate School and requires ~~submission of a curriculum vitae and the endorsement of the appropriate department or program head~~ based on ~~The retired faculty member must present~~ substantial evidence of ongoing research and scholarly activity in the field. Separate application is required for each newly-admitted student for whom a retired faculty member wishes to serve as major advisor. Such appointments are made by the Dean of The Graduate School with the advice of the Executive Committee.

Clean Copy of Proposed New Language: A member of the University of Connecticut's Graduate Faculty who has retired from active service may be considered for appointment as major advisor for a newly-admitted master's or doctoral student. Application is made to the Executive Committee of The Graduate School and requires the endorsement of the appropriate department or program head based on substantial evidence of ongoing research and scholarly activity in the field. Separate application is required for each newly-admitted student for whom a retired faculty member wishes to serve as major advisor. Such appointments are made by the Dean of The Graduate School with the advice of the Executive Committee.

After a brief discussion of the changes, a motion was made to adopt the proposed changes, which was seconded and the motion was passed. **Agenda item number five a (5a) was passed with one abstention.**

b. Limits on Repeating Courses: Proposal to change Section V.C. of the GFC by-laws as follows:

Current Language: No student shall receive credit for the same course twice, unless repeating the course is specifically authorized in the Graduate Catalog, as in a variable content course. Courses with the same number that cover the same course content cannot be counted more than once for credit. However, a student may repeat a course previously taken up to two times without seeking permission in order to earn a higher grade.

When a course is repeated prior to completion of a degree, in the computation of the grade point average, the registered credit and grade points for the highest grade shall be included in the GPA calculation and the registered credit and grade for the lower grade shall remain on the transcript, but shall be removed from the GPA calculation.

Marked-up Copy of Proposed Changes: No student shall receive credit for the same course twice, unless repeating the course is specifically authorized in the Graduate Catalog, as in a variable content course. Courses with the same number that cover the same course content cannot be counted more than once for credit. However, a student may repeat a course ~~once previously taken up to two times without seeking permission~~ in order to earn a higher grade.

When a course is repeated to earn a higher grade prior to completion of a degree, in the computation of the grade point average, the registered credit and grade points for the highest grade shall be included in the GPA calculation. ~~and the registered credit and grade for the~~ The lower grade shall remain on the transcript, but shall be removed from the GPA calculation.

Clean Copy of Proposed New Language: No student shall receive credit for the same course twice, unless repeating the course is specifically authorized in the Graduate Catalog, as in a variable content course. Courses with the same number that cover the same course content cannot be counted more than once for credit. However, a student may repeat a course once in order to earn a higher grade.

When a course is repeated to earn a higher grade prior to completion of a degree, in the computation of the grade point average, the registered credit and grade points for the highest grade shall be included in the GPA calculation. The lower grade shall remain on the transcript, but shall be removed from the GPA calculation.

After a discussion centering on a course taken and only one repeat allowed, a motion was made to make the proposed changes, which was seconded, and the motion was passed. **Agenda item number five b (5b) was approved unanimously.**

c. **Master's Degrees for PhD Students: Proposal to change Section VII.A.c of the GFC by-laws as follows:**

Current Copy: Master's degrees for doctoral students: Students admitted to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may earn a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree, if one is offered specifically in their field of study, under either the Thesis or the Non-Thesis Plan. Students may also apply for this degree if they have on file a fully approved Ph.D. Plan of Study including at least 30 completed credits of suitable content coursework taken at this University and have passed a master's final examination. They also may apply for this degree if they have completed at least 30 credits on an approved Ph.D. Plan of Study, have passed the doctoral General Examination, and have been recommended by their major advisor or by the Dean of The Graduate School for award of the master's degree.

Marked-up Copy of Proposed Changes: Master's degrees for doctoral students: Students admitted to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may earn a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree in the same or another field of study if one is offered specifically in their field of study, under either the Thesis (Plan A) or the Non-Thesis Plan (Plan B) option by meeting all of the requirements for that degree, including filing a Master's Plan of Study for the degree that is based on courses that are not used on the student's PhD Plan of Study. Students may also apply for a Plan B master's degree in their Ph.D. field of study (if one is offered) if they have completed at least 30

credits of content coursework from a fully approved Ph.D. Plan of Study, have passed either a master's final examination or a doctoral General Exam in that field of study, and have been recommended by their major advisor or by the Dean of The Graduate School for award of the master's degree in that field of study. In this case, the courses used toward the master's degree can also be used on the student's PhD Plan of Study. ~~Students may also apply for this degree if they have on file a fully approved Ph.D. Plan of Study including at least 30 completed credits of suitable content coursework taken at this University and have passed a master's final examination. They also may apply for this degree if they have completed at least 30 credits on an approved Ph.D. Plan of Study, have passed the doctoral General Examination, and have been recommended by their major advisor or by the Dean of The Graduate School for award of the master's degree.~~

Clean Copy of Proposed New Language: Master's degrees for doctoral students: Students admitted to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may earn a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree in the same or another field of study, under either the Thesis (Plan A) or the Non-Thesis Plan (Plan B) option by meeting all of the requirements for that degree, including filing a Master's Plan of Study for the degree that is based on courses that are not used on the student's PhD Plan of Study. Students may also apply for a Plan B master's degree in their Ph.D. field of study (if one is offered) if they have completed at least 30 credits of content coursework from a fully approved Ph.D. Plan of Study, have passed either a master's final examination or a doctoral General Exam in that field of study, and have been recommended by their major advisor or by the Dean of The Graduate School for award of the master's degree in that field of study. In this case, the courses used toward the master's degree can also be used on the student's PhD Plan of Study.

After further explanation and clarification of the changes to be made to the wording in this Section, a motion was made to accept the above changes, which was seconded, and the motion was passed.

Agenda item five c (5c) was passed by a majority vote.

6. New Business (for discussion)
 - a. **NRC resolution**

The University Senate will consider a motion to add the following language to its bylaws.

During AY 20/21, students may select a transcript notation of 'NRC' (No Record-COVID) to replace the 'W.'

Dean Holsinger proposed that the GFC adopt the following resolution:

If the University Senate adopts a motion allowing NRC grades for undergraduates, the option will be available to graduate students under the same conditions it is available to undergraduates.

A discussion ensued and the GFC resolved to follow the policy if adopted by the University Senate. A motion was made to adopt the resolution, which was seconded, and the motion was passed. **Agenda item number six a (6a) was passed by a majority vote.**

- b. **Resolution from the EC regarding cuts to graduate funding**

The Executive committee has unanimously endorsed a letter to be sent to Dean Holsinger urging no budget cuts since this is not in line with the goals of The Graduate School. The GFC agrees it is important that graduate students be supported first and they also endorse the letter.

7. Announcements from the Dean of the Graduate School, Kent Holsinger.
 - a. In two weeks, Timely Topics will present a meeting hosted by Carl Lejuez concerning student mental health as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. There was a motion offered for adjournment, which was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 pm.
9. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for March 24, 2021 via Webex.