



Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Location: WebEx

Subject: Executive Committee (EC) of The Graduate School meeting minutes

Attendees: Judy Brown, Mitch Green, Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio, Chair*), Elizabeth Holzer, Barbara Kream (*Ex Officio*), Charles Mahoney, Etan Markus, Betsy McCoach, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary*), Kathy Segerson (*Ex Officio*), Judith Thorpe and Penny Vlahos.

Absent: Lynn Puddington

Guests: Joseph Abramo, Kristen Bott, Denise Bourassa, Nancy Crouch, Jose Cruz, Christine Dileone, Joy Elwell, Lucy Gilson, Mia Hawlk, John Knopf, Kathryn Libal, Kylene Perras, Angela Starkweather, and Daniela Weiser

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1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. The regular meeting of the Executive Committee for February 17, 2021 was called to order at 3:02 pm.
  2. Agenda item number two (2) – Presented for consideration and voting – Approval of the minutes. The minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee were introduced. There was a motion offered to accept the minutes, which was seconded, and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously.**
  3. Announcements: There will be an announcement forthcoming regarding whether commencement will be virtual or in person.
  4. Agenda item number four (4) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 20-Bull-Z41Puu – Add a new area of concentration to MA in Dramatic Arts*. The School of Fine Arts would like to add a new area of concentration in Production and Design. After a brief discussion, there was a motion offered to accept the proposal, which was seconded. **Agenda item number four (4) was approved with changes to the catalog language.**
  5. Agenda item number five (5) - Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 20-Per-VWP2RR – Change name of area of concentration in MENG*. This proposal is to change the name of the MENG concentration in Clinical Engineering to Biomedical Engineering. The new concentration will have two tracks: Clinical Engineering and Biomechanics Engineering. After a brief discussion, there was a motion was made to accept the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number five (5) was approved unanimously.**

6. Agenda item number six (6) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 20-MATH-SB2RYV and 21-MATH-QYWEKO – Eliminate Educational Technology and Special Education as Sixth Year Fields of Study and add them as an area of concentration for the Sixth Year in Educational Psychology.* This request is to eliminate both Education Technology and Special Education from the Sixth Year Diploma (where they are stand-alone fields of study) and add both Educational Technology and Special Education as new Areas of Concentration to the Sixth-year diploma in Educational Psychology. After a discussion of the rationale for the change, a motion was made, which was seconded, and the Committee approved the request. **Agenda item number six (6) was approved unanimously.**
7. Agenda item number seven (7) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 20-ABRA-YG2TP3 – Change in delivery modality: MA in C&I (Summer Music)* This request is to accommodate practicing teachers' schedules. Students will be able to take the required courses over summers and/or online. This change only applies to this concentration in music within the MA only. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number seven (7) was approved unanimously.**
8. Agenda item number eight (8) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 21-LIBA-PRMZQF – Create a new degree program: MA in Human Rights.* Interest in a graduate program for Human Rights has soared over the past several years. This would be a 4 + 1 program. It is more desirable for entry-level positions to have graduate credentialing in Human Rights. There are not many universities that offer an MA and there are no programs in Connecticut. This program would meet the educational and professional need of students and continue to raise the UConn profile as a preeminent educator in the human rights field. After a discussion of the benefits of the program, a motion was made to approve the request with small modifications to the catalog language and program description, which was seconded. **Agenda item number eight (8) was approved unanimously.**
9. Agenda item number nine (9) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 21-HAWL-61o10W – Change in delivery modality: Online MBA.* Adding the Online MBA increases the access to the MBA program that does not currently exist. In the current world it is imperative to offer an online option in order to maintain enrollment. Online programs serve female and minority populations which were underserved in the past and will now allow the program to create a level of access that does not currently exist. After a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the request with small modifications, which was seconded. **Agenda item number nine (9) was approved unanimously.**
10. Agenda item number ten (10) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR-21-CROU-24HIAK – Add a new degree program: MA in Business Research.* This proposal is for a degree in lieu of, not in addition to, the PhD, offered only in conjunction with termination of PhD studies. Some students may complete all the course work needed for the PhD but not the additional requirements of passing comprehensive examinations and/or writing a dissertation. In recognition of the advanced curriculum that these students have successfully completed the program will award an MS in Business Research. There was a lengthy discussion that ensued about the name of the program. The Committee approved the proposal with some modifications to the proposed catalog copy, but recommended that the program be asked to

consider changing the name to highlight the emphasis on theory and methods. **Agenda item number ten (10) was approved.**

11. Agenda item number eleven (11) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 20-CART-H1U009 – Change in delivery modality: MS in Adult Gerontology Acute Care NP*. The School of Nursing is transitioning all Master’s concentrations to online. After a brief discussion, there was a motion made to approve the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number eleven (11) was approved unanimously.**
12. Agenda item number twelve (12) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 21-CART-XBY4DQ – Add a new Area of Concentration to the DNP*. Currently the Nurse Leader concentration is offered only under the MS option. This request is to add a Nurse Leader Area of Concentration to the DNP program (for BS-DNP students). After a brief discussion, there was a motion made to approve the request with modifications to the catalog copy, which was seconded. **Agenda item number twelve (12) was approved unanimously.**
13. Agenda item number thirteen (13) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 20-BOUR-MZCQ4U and 20-BOUR-8A3JWT – Add New-Post Master’s Certificates in Nurse Education and Nurse Leader*. These certificates would meet the need for preparing nurses for career advancement in nursing education and nursing leadership/administration. After a brief discussion there was a motion made to approve the requests with modifications to the catalog language, which was seconded. **Agenda item number thirteen (13) was approved unanimously.**
14. Agenda item number fourteen (14) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 20-STAR-XHWJPQ – Add a new certificate in Dementia Care*. This certificate will address an existing and growing market need to educate nurses and health care professionals on essential disease processes, treatments, care, and caregiving with the domain of dementia care. The goal is to improved care for persons living with dementia. There was a brief discussion after which a motion was made to approve the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number fourteen (14) was approved unanimously.**
15. Agenda item number fifteen (15) – Presented for consideration and voting – *GPAR 21-WILS-HG50VG Eliminate an area of concentration: Diagnostic Genetics Sciences Certificate*. This request is to remove the Area of Concentration in Cytogenetics in the Diagnostic Genetic Sciences Certificate. This area of concentration is small with limited growth expected. The focus of the certificate will now be on expanding the curriculum within the molecular diagnostics program and the post-bac which will allow the use of resources to follow current growth trends within the field. After the presentation there was a discussion which questioned whether the program wanted to keep the other area of concentration in the certificate. There was a motion to approve this proposal, with a request that Associate Dean Segerson resolve this question with Denise Anamani and/or Lauren Wilson and modify the proposal accordingly. The motion was seconded. **Agenda item number fifteen (15) was approved unanimously.**
16. Agenda item number sixteen (16) – Presented for consideration and voting – *Add a new degree: PhD in Integrative Studies*. Occasionally a PhD student may seek to pursue a novel course of study and research that integrates elements of two or more fields of study recognized by The

Graduate School. The Integrative Studies PhD degree will allow highly motivated students whose research interests cannot be captured within an existing field of study to design an individualized PhD degree program that matches their interests. The program is designed primarily for students who have already been admitted to a UConn PhD program although applicants from outside the University will be considered if they meet the application requirements. After a lengthy discussion, there was a motion made to approve the request, which was seconded. **Agenda item number sixteen (16) was approved with minor changes to the Graduate Catalog copy.**

17. Agenda item number seventeen (17) – Draft of Template for Annual Report for Doctoral Students. A Draft Template for the Annual Progress and Status Report for Doctoral Students was shared as a model to develop for the programs in each discipline if desired. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
18. New business and updates – The committee discussed cuts to the graduate program. The discussion resulted in a desire to create a resolution letter sent to Dean Holsinger urging the University to find ways to meet budget cuts other than through reducing support for graduate students. The committee agreed to work on the text of the letter and forward it to Dean Holsinger when completed.
19. There was a motion offered for adjournment which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.
20. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for **March 17, 2021 via Webex.**