



Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes
3:00 to 5:00 – September 22nd, 2021
Virtual meeting via WebEx

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Location: WebEx

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) minutes

Attendees: Abigail Campbell (*Ex-Officio, Secretary*), Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio*), Kathleen Segerson (*Ex-Officio*), Penny Vlahos, Ovideiu Munteanu, Ron Squibbs, Prabhakar Singh, Joel Salisbury, Thomas Craemer, Charles Mahoney (*Ex-Officio, moderator*), Elizabeth Mayerson, Matthew Stuber, Victoria Smith, Xinyu Zhao, David Gregorio, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Mary-Anne Amalaradjou, Neal Glaviano, Niloy Dutta, Travis Grosser, Valeria Duffy, Fahreddin Azimi, Heather Battaly, Jennie Weiner, Julianna Herman, Kirstie Farrar, Kurt Scwenk, Rahul Kanadia, Thomas Hayes, Jose Cruz, Betsy McCoach, Judith Thorpe, Michael O’Neill, Talia Bar, Andrew Wiemer, Christopher blesso, Diane Quinn, Tammie Spaulding, William Ouimet, Evgueni Pinkhassik, Deborah Bolnick, Helena Silva, Kimberly Dodge-Kafka, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Christine Tocchi, Dan Pejril, David Atkin, Magdalena Kaufmann, Helen Swede, Megan Feely, Suzanne Wilson, David Pierce, Diana Rios, Richard Anyah, Yuping Zhang, Julia Kuzovkina, Jacqueline Loss, David Embrick, Farhed Shah, Jennifer Dineen, Kelly Burke, Hannah Dostal, Preston Britner

Absent: Nathan Fiala, Molly Waring, Young Tang, Janet Pritchard, Monty Escabi, Royce Mohan, Todd Kravet, Amy Dunbar, Moustaphia Diaby, Yongku Cho, Eugene Pinkhassik, Jessica Rouge, Marina Astitha, Timothy Vadas, Kristie Cope-Farrar, Alexander Russell, Amir Herzberg, John Settlage, Aditya Tadinada, Eliane Dutra, Alexander Woodward, Christina Bullard, Talia Bar, Min Seong Kim, Jenny Nienhusser, Sandra Chafouleas, Fakhreddin Azimi, Zeljko Boskovic, Jacqueline Loss, Ovidiu Munteanu, Victoria Robinson,

1. Call to order. Charles Mahoney (moderator) called the meeting of the GFC to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Presented for voting: Approval of the Minutes from the April 28, 2021 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Announcements from GSS:
 - a. New parliamentarian
 - i. First GSS meeting will be held this evening; there were no new announcements

4. Announcements from The Graduate School

- a. The University Senate passed a new deadline for class withdrawals (W's) – Change of pass/fail drop course
- b. New Integrative Studies PhD – A new PhD in Integrative Studies has been approved by the Executive Committee of The Graduate School and the Board of Trustees. Students currently enrolled in a UConn PhD program are eligible to apply, but students must have a 3.5 GPA to be considered for application and then they need to maintain that GPA while in the program.
- c. Annual Report template and guidance – The Graduate School developed a template for programs to use for designing an annual academic progress report for their graduate students. The template is posted on the website of The Graduate School (<https://grad.uconn.edu/faculty-staff-resources/managing-graduate-programs/annual-academic-evaluations/>). TGS is working on developing guidance for use of annual progress reports. These guidelines will also be posted on the website.
- d. Summary of recent changes to GFC by-laws – GFC representatives should remind their programs of recent changes to the GFC by-laws. These include:
 - i. The elimination of a Graduate School requirement for foreign language and related area; this requirement can still be imposed by program, but it is no longer required by The Graduate School.
 - ii. Paperwork changes; students no longer need to submit tentative approval pages or working copies of dissertations. In addition, students are no longer required to submit the dissertation approval page with wet signatures. A new electronic workflow has been developed for approving dissertations.
- e. Upcoming Timely Topics – A list of upcoming Timely Topics is available on the Graduate School website (<https://grad.uconn.edu/timely-topics/>). Timely Topics are for Faculty and Administrative staff, although some are geared more toward one group than the other.
- f. 3-Minute Thesis Competition –This includes participating schools from around the world. Our winner is represented in the international competition
- g. UConn became a member of the Center for Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Network (https://www.cirtl.net/about/learning_outcomes). CIRTL uses graduate education as the leverage point to develop a national STEM faculty committed to implementing and advancing effective teaching practices for diverse student audiences as part of successful professional careers. The network dedicated to helping graduate students gain skills in teaching more effectively

5. Old Business: (for voting)

There is no old business this month.

6. New Business (for discussion)

Betsy McCoach (Educational Psychology) presented analyses of role of GRE scores in UConn graduate programs that she and Kent Holsinger conducted. The conclusion of the analyses was that GRE scores are not a strong predictor of PhD admissions status, GRE-scores negatively predict matriculation status (there is a small effect that varies by program), and GRE scores do positively predict GPA (although again there is variability by program).

7. Charles Mahoney made motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:25PM. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 27, 2021 from 3:00PM-5:00PM.