



Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Agenda
3:00 to 5:00 – Wednesday October 27th, 2021
Virtual meeting via WebEx

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Location: WebEx

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) minutes

Attendees: Karen Bresciano, 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 Ford 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, 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, Royce Mohan, Diane Rios, Moustaphia Diaby, Marina Astitha

Absent: Nathan Fiala, Molly Waring, Young Tang, Monty Escabi, Todd Kravet, Amy Dunbar, Yongku Cho, Eugene Pinkhassik, Jessica Rouge, Timothy Vadas, Kristie Cope-Farrar, Alexander Russell, Amir Herzberg, John Settlage, Aditya Tadinada, Eliane Dutra, Alexander Woodward, Christina Bullard, Min Seong Kim, Jenny Nienhusser, Sandra Chafouleas, Fakhreddin Azimi, Zeljko Boskovic, Victoria Robinson, Judith Thorpe

1. Call to order.
2. Presented for voting: Approval of the Minutes from the September 22nd, 2021 meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.
3. Report from Graduate Student Senate – The GSS has sent out a graduate housing survey to solicit students' opinions about on and off-campus housing issues. GSS has also established a financial committee to allocate funding to Tier 2 organizations. GSS is also discussing the increase in loans for graduate students from \$1500 to \$3000 for a possible allocation for those who may need it. Julianna will be circulating minutes of the GSS meeting to members of the GFC.
4. Announcements

- a. Annual Progress Report Updates. Following suggestions from the GFC, changes have been made to the Annual Report Template to provide more detailed criteria for assessment and guidance has been developed for using the Annual Review form. The revised form and the guidance are posted on The Graduate School website.
5. Old Business
 - a. Proposed By-laws change regarding P/F grades for graduate students. Current By-laws language state that *“Graduate Students are not permitted to take any course, undergraduate or graduate, on a Pass/Fail basis.”* Proposed change in By-laws language would allow students to take courses on a Pass/Fail basis, but not to include it on their final plan of study. After some discussion, a proposal was made to change the by-laws language to read: *With permission of their major advisor graduate students are permitted to take any course, undergraduate or graduate, on a Pass/Fail basis, but the course cannot be included on their final plan of study.* Members of the GFC were asked to take language back to their department to discuss and possible voting at the next meeting of the GFC.
6. New Business
 - a. Proposed By-laws change regarding continuation of retired faculty as advisors. Current language only speaks to a retired faculty member being appointed as an advisor for a newly-admitted master’s or doctoral student. The language does not include clarification regarding a current advisor who retires while advising a graduate student. A proposal was put forth to add the following to the GFC by-laws: *“A member of the University of Connecticut’s Graduate Faculty who has recently retired from active service may continue to serve on a student’s advisory committee (as a major or associate advisor) with the endorsement of the appropriate department or program head.) In addition, retired faculty may be considered for appointment as major advisor for a newly-admitted master’s or doctoral student.”* After some discussion, it was agreed that The Graduate School would clarify the language slightly and that members of the GFC would take the language back to their department to discuss for possible voting at the next meeting of the GFC.
 - b. Proposed policy change regarding resignation of major advisors. Current process is such that the Major advisor notifies The Graduate School of a resignation and the student then has 30 days to find a new major advisor. It is the responsibility of student to find a new major advisor. If the student does not find a new major, they are terminated, not dismissed. This process places all of the responsibility on the student and no responsibility on the program to support the student in finding a new advisor. Dean Holsinger proposed two options for changing this process:
 1. Option #1: The major advisor notifies the department head (DH) or director of graduate studies (DGS) of their intention to resign. The DH or

DGS then works with the student to identify a new major advisor. If successful, a new major advisor is assigned. If unsuccessful after reasonable effort, the DH or DGS notifies The Graduate School and recommends dismissal or termination.

2. Option #2: The major advisor notifies The Graduate School (TGS) of their intention to resign. TGS notifies the DH or DGS and appoints them as temporary major advisor. The DH or DGS then works with the student to identify a new major advisor. If successful, the new major advisor is assigned. If unsuccessful after reasonable effort, the DH or DGS notifies TGS and recommends dismissal or termination.

Under either option, the decision could be appealed. Appeal of a termination would be based on whether the department made reasonable efforts to appoint new major advisor. Appeal of a dismissal would be based on the department's assessment that the student is academically unqualified.

After discussion of these proposed options, it was decided that Dean Holsinger would develop more specific recommendations regarding changes in the GFC by-laws related to major advisor resignations and bring those to the GFC at its next meeting for further discussion.

- b. Karen Bresciano presented information from the Academic Integrity Taskforce. She reported that a survey will be distributed ahead of the upcoming Graduate Faculty Council. The survey asks for feedback on the proposed modification of language surrounding the definition of scholarly misconduct.
7. A motion to end the meeting was seconded. The meeting ended at 4:49PM.