



Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Agenda
Virtual meeting via WebEx

Date: Wednesday, April 27th, 2022, 3:00pm-5:00pm
Location: WebEx
Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) minutes

Attendees: Richard Anyah, David Atkin, Fakhreddin Azimi Heather Battaly, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Deborah Bolnick, Kelly Burke, Preston Britner, Talia Bar, Abigail Campbell (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), Thomas Craemer, Jose Cruz, John Chandy, Moustapha Diaby, Valerie Duffy, David G. Embrick, Monty Escabi, Megan Feely, Kirstie Farrar, Thomas Hayes, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio*), Magdalena Kaufmann, Todd Kravet, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Elizabeth Mayerson, Charles Mahoney, D. Betsy McCoach, Royce Mohan, H. Kenny Nienhuser, William Ouimet, Dan Pejril, Diana Rios, Reed Solomon, Victoria Ford Smith, Tammie Spaulding, Matthew Stuber, Katheleen Segerson (*Ex-Officio*), Judith Thorpe, Timothy Vadas, Penny Vlahos, Suzanne Wilson, Xinyu Zhao

Guests: Karen Bresciano, Meg Drakos

1. The April meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council was called to order on Wednesday April 27th, 2022 at 3:03pm.
2. Presented for voting: Approval of the Minutes from the March, 23 2022 meeting. The minutes for the March 23rd 2022 meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council were approved unanimously.
3. Report from Graduate Student Senate. There was no report from the Graduate Student Senate.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Proposal regarding the by-laws change regarding transfer credits for master's-along-the-way (Section VII.A.c.). A motion was made to discuss the proposal. The motion was seconded.

Current By-laws language (Section VII.A.c.)

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 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 Ph.D. 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 Ph.D. Plan of Study.

Proposed new by-laws Language:

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 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 Ph.D. 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 meet all of the following requirements:

(1) they have completed at least 30 credits of content coursework from a fully approved Ph.D. Plan of Study with no more than six credits being transfer credits from another university.

(2) they have passed either a master's final examination or a doctoral General Exam in that field of study, and

(3) they 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 Ph.D. Plan of Study.

The proposal regarding the Master's along the way (Section VII.A.c) was brought to a vote. The Graduate Faculty Council voted to pass the proposed changes unanimously.

- b. Proposed regarding by-laws change regarding multiple areas of concentration (Section III.C). A motion was made to discuss the proposal. The motion was seconded.

Current by-laws language (Section III.C)

Ordinarily, a student is granted admission to pursue a graduate degree in one field at a time, except when enrolled in an approved dual degree program. A student may be permitted to enroll concurrently in two different degree programs with approval of their advisors in both programs. In all cases (including dual degree programs), a separate application must be filed for each degree program.

Proposed new Section III.D:¹

When a degree program offers areas of concentration, a student can complete the degree with more than one area of concentration, provided the student has the approval of their advisory committee. With the approval of their advisory committee, a student may use the same course to meet the requirements of more than one area of concentration within their degree program. For programs that require a dissertation or thesis, a single dissertation or thesis should be written to satisfy the degree requirements even when the student otherwise completes the requirements for multiple areas of concentration within that field of study.

The proposal regarding the multiple areas of concentration (Section III.C) was brought to a vote. The Graduate Faculty Council voted to pass the proposed changes unanimously.

- c. Proposal regarding by-laws change regarding commencement (Section VII.L.d). A motion was made to discuss the proposal. The motion was seconded.

Current Catalog Language (Section VII.L.d)

The graduate Commencement ceremony is held once each year at the end of the spring semester. The following students may participate in the Commencement ceremony: (1) student who are candidates for conferral of a May degree, (2) student who anticipate completing all degree requirements and being conferred their degree in August of that year, (3)

¹ The language originally proposed for this change included the following: *When a degree program offers areas of concentration, a student can complete the degree with more than one area of concentration, provided the student has the approval of their major advisor. With the approval of their major advisor, a student may use the same course to meet the requirements of more than one area of concentration within their degree program.* At the suggestion of an EC member, the approval by the major advisor was changed to approval by the advisory committee. However, due to an editorial oversight, when presented to the GFC, that change was made in one place in this language but not in both places. That oversight has been corrected in the language recorded above.

students who were conferred their degree in December of the previous year, and (4) students who were conferred their degree in August of the previous year and did not participate in the Commencement ceremony the previous year.

Academic regalia appropriate for the University of Connecticut degree being conferred is strictly required for all who participate in the ceremony.

Proposed change

Delete Section VII.L.d.

The proposal regarding the change to Section VII.L.d was brought to a vote. The Graduate Faculty Council voted to pass the proposed changes unanimously.

5. New Business
 - a. Resolution for Conferral of Degrees
6. Announcements
 - a. The Graduate School admissions team solicited feedback from the GFC regarding the academic misconduct and behavioral question on the application for admission to The Graduate School.
7. The April meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council was adjourned at 4:09pm. The next meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council will be held on Wednesday September 28th, 2022.