

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

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, D. Betsy McCoach, Royce Mohan, H. Kenny Nienhusser, William Ouimet, Dan Pejril, Diana Rios, Reed Solomon, Tammie Spaulding, Matthew Stuber, Katheleen Segerson (*Ex-Officio*), Judith Thorpe, Timothy Vadas, Penny Vlahos, Suzanne Wilson, Xinyu Zhao

Guests: Cinnamon Adams, Karen Bresciano, Anne Lanzit

1. Call to order. The meeting of the GFC was called to order at 3:02PM.
2. Approval of minutes from January 26th, 2022 meeting. A motion was presented to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Report from Graduate Student Senate – No report or attendance.
4. Announcements
  - a. New website information regarding new program approvals. GPAR is in place for approvals of changes and modifications to programs. TGS is working with the Provost's office to develop materials for providing guidance on developing and obtaining approval for new programs. To navigate to the webpage, go to [grad.uconn.edu](http://grad.uconn.edu) → Information for Faculty/Staff → Steps for Graduate Program Approvals. This page outlines the process for *any* new graduate program.
5. Old Business
  - a. Proposal Regarding TGS Minimum GPA Required for Admission (Section III.D.c of GFC by-laws). A motion was made to discuss the proposal. The motion was

seconded.

**Current by-laws language:**

*Except in exceptional circumstances, to be considered for admission to a degree or certificate program, prior coursework must be of at least the following quality:*

1. *a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 for the entire undergraduate record, or*
2. *3.0 for the last two years of full-time coursework, or*
3. *3.5 GPA or higher in the entire final year of coursework prior to application to The Graduate School,*

*where the grade point average is computed using the following scale: “A” = 4.0, “B” = 3.0, “C” = 2.0, “D” = 1.0, “F” = 0. Applicants from international colleges and universities must meet equivalent standards of eligibility and submit official transcripts showing all work completed.*

**Proposed new by-laws language:**

*Except in exceptional circumstances, to be considered for admission to a graduate degree or certificate program, a student’s prior coursework must meet one of the following criteria:*

1. *A cumulative GPA for their most recent degree of 3.0 or higher for the entire degree, **or***
2. *If the most recent degree is an undergraduate degree or the student has not yet completed their undergraduate degree:*
  - a. *A GPA of 3.0 or higher for the entire two most recent years of full-time undergraduate coursework, **or***
  - b. *A GPA of 3.5 or higher for the entire most recent year of full-time undergraduate coursework, **or***
3. *If a student has taken at least one semester of full-time study following the completion of the most recent undergraduate or graduate degree, a GPA of 3.0 or higher for all of their post- degree coursework.*

*The grade point average is computed using the following scale: “A” = 4.0, “B” = 3.0, “C” = 2.0, “D” = 1.0, “F” = 0. Applicants from international colleges and universities must meet equivalent standards of eligibility and submit official transcripts showing all work completed.*

A motion was made to vote on the proposal. The motion was seconded. The proposal passed with 31 members in favor and 0 opposed.

- b. Proposal Regarding Provisional Status for Certificate Students (Section III.E.a of GFC by-laws). A motion was made to discuss the proposal. The motion was seconded.

**Current by-laws language:**

*Occasionally, students who hold the baccalaureate but do not qualify fully for admission to regular status may give sufficient evidence of ability in their chosen field to warrant their provisional admission to a master's degree program only. Applicants cannot be admitted provisionally to a doctoral program. In addition, students who require F-1 or J-1 visa sponsorship are not eligible for provisional admission.*

**Proposed new by-laws language:**

*Occasionally, students who hold the baccalaureate but do not qualify fully for admission to regular status may give sufficient evidence of ability in their chosen field to warrant their provisional admission to a master's degree or certificate program only. Applicants cannot be admitted provisionally to a doctoral program. In addition, students who require F-1 or J-1 visa sponsorship are not eligible for provisional admission.*

A motion was made to pass the proposal. The motion was seconded. The proposal passed with 32 in favor and 2 opposed.

- c. Proposal Regarding Retiring Faculty Continuing as Advisors (Section VIII.A.j of GFC by-laws).

**Recently adopted New Language:**

*A member of the University of Connecticut 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 head or program director. In addition, a retired member of the Graduate Faculty may be considered for appointment as major advisor for a newly-admitted master's or doctoral student. Application for such an appointment 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.*

**Proposed additional change to recently adopted new language (marked up):**

*A member of the University of Connecticut faculty who has recently retired from active service or left the University without retiring may continue to serve on a student's advisory committee (as a major or associate advisor) with the endorsement of the appropriate department head or program director, based on a reasonable expectation that the person will be able and willing to remain actively engaged in advising the student through the remainder of the student's program. In addition, a retired member of the Graduate Faculty may be considered for appointment as major advisor for a newly-admitted master's or doctoral student. Application for such an appointment is made to the Executive Committee of The Graduate School and requires with 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 who is no longer in active service at the University wishes to serve (or continue to serve) as major advisor. Such appointments are made by the Dean of The Graduate School with the advice of the Executive Committee.*

**Proposed additional change to recently adopted new language (clean copy):**

*A member of the University of Connecticut faculty who has recently retired from active service or left the University without retiring may continue to serve on a student's advisory committee (as a major or associate advisor) with the endorsement of the appropriate department head or program director, based on a reasonable expectation that the person will be able and willing to remain actively engaged in advising the student through the remainder of the student's program. In addition, a retired member of the Graduate Faculty may be considered for appointment as major advisor for a newly-admitted master's or doctoral student with 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 student for whom a faculty member who is no longer in active service at the University wishes to serve (or continue to serve) as major advisor. Such appointments are made by the Dean of The Graduate School with the advice of the Executive Committee.*

A motion was made to vote on the proposal. The motion was seconded. The proposal passed with 29 members in favor and 2 opposed.

6. New Business

- a. Proposal regarding deadlines for auditing/dropping courses. A motion was made to discuss a proposal a proposal to change the nine-week deadline for dropping (or auditing) courses to eleven weeks to be consistent with changes recently adopted by the University Senate. The motion was seconded. The proposal was to make the following changes to the GFC by-laws:

**Section V.B.b.**

All permissions and registrations for auditing courses must be filed in the Office of the Registrar. No audit enrollment request will be approved after the ~~ninth~~ eleventh week of the semester.

#### **Section V.D.d**

A course may be dropped during the first ~~nine~~ eleven weeks of a semester or prior to the midpoint of a summer session course.

#### **Section V.D.f**

After the first ~~nine~~ eleven weeks of a semester or the midpoint of a summer session course, students ordinarily are not allowed to drop a course.

Because of the timeliness of this proposal and the need to include the new deadline (if passed) in the graduate catalog, a motion was made to vote on the proposal at this meeting rather than following the usual GFC protocol of presenting a motion at one meeting and then voting at the next meeting. The motion was seconded. The proposal passed with 30 members in favor and 2 opposed.

- b. Master's-along-the-way (Section VII.A.c of GFC by-laws). A question has arisen about whether the 30 credits required for a master's-along-the-way must all be taken at UConn. If not, the question is whether there should be some limit on the number of those credits that can be taken elsewhere. The GFC was generally supported allowing a limited number of those credits to be transfer credits. TGS will come back to the GFC with a proposal for a specific change to the by-laws on this issue.
  - c. Student taking multiple areas of concentration. The Graduate Faculty Council discussed the possibility of students taking multiple areas of concentration during their graduate degree. The GFC was generally supportive of this. TGS will come back to the GFC with a proposal for a specific change to the by-laws on this issue.
7. Discussion
- a. Academic and Scholarly Integrity Task Force. An update was provided on the status of the work of the Task Force. A proposal for specific changes to the by-laws to implement the recommendations of the Task Force will be presented to the GFC at a subsequent meeting. Those recommendations will include the following language:

#### **Proposed replacement language for Section XI.A.d:**

*Academic and scholarly integrity issues related to graduate students are governed by the University's Academic, Scholarly, and Professional Integrity and*

*Misconduct Policy and the associated procedures for addressing violations of this policy, both of which are endorsed by The Graduate School.*

*Changes to this policy or the associated procedures can only be made following the convening of a committee that brings together the relevant stakeholders, including members of the University Senate and Graduate Faculty Council, and approval of those changes by both the University Senate and the Graduate Faculty Council.*

8. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:19PM.