



Date: 28th of September 2022, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Location: [Virtual Meeting via WebEx](#)

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council of The Graduate School (GFC) meeting minutes

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Alfredo Angeles-Boza, David Atkin, Fakhreddin Azimi, Talia Bar, Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio*), Deborah Bolnick, Preston Britner, Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), Thomas Craemer, Valerie Duffy, Alexandra Freidus, Neal Glaviano, Louis Hanzlik, Thomas Hayes, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio*), Magdalena Kaufmann, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Nicole Landi, Jacqueline Loss, D. Betsy McCoach, William Ouimet, Dan Pejril, Gianna Raimondi (*Ex-Officio*), Diana Rios, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Archana Sanjay, Kurt Schwenk, Tammie Spaulding, Matthew Stuber, Randall Walikonis, Suzanne Wilson, Ping Zhang, Yuping Zhang

Absent: Marina Astitha, Heather Battaly, Christopher Blesso, Deborah Bolnick, Zeljko Boskovic, Gabrielle Corso, Jose Cruz, Moustapha Diaby, Hannah Dostal, Niloy Dutta, David Embrick, Monty Escabi, Meg Feely, Nathan Fiala, Victoria Ford Smith, Travis Grosser, Todd Kravet, Julia Kuzovkina, Elizabeth Mayerson, Ovidiu Munteanu, Julian Norato, Michael J. O'Neill, Eugene Pinkhassik, Guillermo Risatti, Alexander Russell, Helena Silva, Prabhakar Singh, Helen Swede, Aditya Tadinada, Judith Thorpe, Penny Vlahos, Andrew Wiemer, Alexander Woodward, Xinyu Zhao

Guests: Karen Bresciano, Gladis Kersaint

1. The meeting is called to order at 3:04 pm.
2. Welcome to the Graduate Faculty Council.
 - a. The new members of the group are provided with a description of what the council is and what their role is as part of it.
3. Election of GFC Moderator

- a. Due to the absence of the former moderator, all present council members take a poll to establish a new one. Mary Anne Amalaradjou is elected by the council.
- 4. Presented for voting: Approval of the Minutes from the April 27, 2022, meeting.
 - a. No corrections are vocalized about prior meeting's notes.
- 5. Report from Graduate Student Senate
 - a. The GSS has elected Gianna Raimondi, who will attend meetings moving forward to report news or issues.
 - b. Currently, there are no reports to mention from the senate.
- 6. Old Business:
 - a. Assistant Dean Karen Bresciano: Academic Integrity Update (see attachments)
 - i. Overview of the changes that the redefined Academic Integrity Policy would look like.
 - 1. A unified system of what Academic Integrity is at UConn, and a single set of procedures regarding violations.
 - 2. This new policy would be easier for faculty and students alike.
 - 3. The joint policy between both undergraduate and graduates is very similar to the current one, however, it features more language changes for the undergraduate policy.
 - 4. Revolving around student-centered conversations, and the allowance for open conversations to be had.
 - ii. Discusses updates on the development of Academic Integrity and its effects on the Graduate Faculty Council by-laws. Proposal of those by-law changes will come soon.
 - iii. A new Office of Academic Integrity has been proposed, and the approval of a director has gone through.
 - iv. A brief discussion occurs about both faculty and student comfort in having initial one-on-one conversations about an academic integrity matter.
 - 1. It is made clear that a third-party observer is always welcome, and a section outlining this will be added in the future.
 - b. Vice Provost for Strategic Initiatives Gladis Kersaint: Academic Integrity Update
 - i. Issue of academic integrity has been discussed at UConn since 2007.
 - ii. Definitions clarified, used feedback from faculty in order to do so.
 - iii. Added expectations for both instructor and faculty.
 - iv. New procedures ensure student due process rights.
 - v. Fairness and consistency, who engages in the hearing, eyewitnesses not character witness in process.
 - vi. Appeal can only occur if procedures are violated, or relevant information was missing.
 - vii. Goal: approve policy and procedures by the end of the semester, establish office next spring, launch in fall 2023.
 - viii. Goals is to support students, to mitigate issues- not get students in trouble.
 - ix. More information next meeting.
- 7. New Business:
 - a. Proposed Motion regarding Popup Courses:
 - i. The current by-laws language (Section VII.A.f.):**

The courses used by a student to complete all requirements for graduate degrees and graduate certificates shall consist largely of courses at the 5000 level or above. A limited number of credits at the 3000 or 4000 level (not more than six) may be used to meet requirements for graduate degrees.

ii. Proposed change in by-laws language:

The courses used by a student to complete all requirements for graduate degrees and graduate certificates shall consist largely of courses at the 5000 level or above. A limited number of credits at the 3000 or 4000 level (not more than six) may be used to meet requirements for graduate degrees. However, courses in the subject area UNIV cannot be used on a graduate plan of study.

iii. Proposed new (clean) by-laws language:

The courses used by a student to complete all requirements for graduate degrees and graduate certificates shall consist largely of courses at the 5000 level or above. A limited number of credits at the 3000 or 4000 level (not more than six) may be used to meet requirements for graduate degrees. However, courses in the subject area UNIV cannot be used on a graduate plan of study.

A question is posed regarding whether this change would affect a student's Financial Aid eligibility. The Financial Aid Office will be contacted prior to the next meeting and an update will be provided.

b. Proposed Motion regarding Credit Sharing:

i. Current by-laws language (Section VII.B.d.):

If a student earns a certificate and is subsequently admitted to a related graduate degree program, all credits from the certificate may be counted toward the graduate degree, subject to the approval of graduate program faculty in that program.

ii. Proposed change in by-laws language:

If a student earns a certificate and is currently pursuing or subsequently admitted to a related graduate degree program, all credits from the certificate may be counted toward the graduate degree, subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee ~~graduate program faculty~~ in the degree that program and the ~~that program and the~~ director of the certificate program.

iii. Proposed new (clean) by-laws language:

If a student earns a certificate and is currently pursuing or subsequently admitted to a related graduate degree program, all credits from the certificate may be counted toward the graduate degree, subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee in the degree program and the director of the certificate program.

Brief question about the clarification on certificates, which is addressed and under the jurisdiction of a separate policy.

- c. Proposed Motion regarding Collaborative Work in a Dissertation:
i. **Current by-laws language (Section VII.K.b.):**

A dissertation representing a significant contribution to ongoing research in the candidate's field is a primary requirement for the Ph.D. degree. The preparation of the dissertation is under the immediate and continuous supervision of the advisory committee, and it must meet all standards prescribed by the committee and by The Graduate School. It must be acceptable in literary style and organization.

- ii. **Proposed change in by-laws language:**

A dissertation representing a significant contribution to ongoing research in the candidate's field is a primary requirement for the Ph.D. degree. The preparation of the dissertation is under the immediate and continuous supervision of the advisory committee, and it must meet all standards prescribed by the committee and by The Graduate School. It must be acceptable in literary style and organization. Although a dissertation should provide evidence of a student's ability to make significant research contributions in their field, it may contain work done in collaboration with others (including other students), provided the student has played a major role in the work. Proper acknowledgment of authorship should be included in the dissertation.

- iii. **Proposed new (clean) by-laws language:**

A dissertation representing a significant contribution to ongoing research in the candidate's field is a primary requirement for the Ph.D. degree. The preparation of the dissertation is under the immediate and continuous supervision of the advisory committee, and it must meet all standards prescribed by the committee and by The Graduate School. It must be acceptable in literary style and organization. Although a dissertation should provide evidence of a student's ability to make significant research contributions in their field, it may contain work done in collaboration with others

(including other students), provided the student has played a major role in the work. Proper acknowledgment of authorship should be included in the dissertation.

Multiple concerns were brought forth, including:

The interpretation of multiple dissertation authors of differing roles and status, and the controversy this could potentially lead to.

How the inclusion of other authors deviates from many traditional practices of a dissertation.

The ordering of how multiple authors would be listed, and where.

A common conclusion was reached that there would be an edit to the language of this by-law, and that all instances of a collaborative dissertation must be cleared by an advisory committee.

d. Proposed Motion regarding Timeline for Grade Appeals:

i. **Current by-laws language (Section X.C.b.):**

The appeal process does not cover appeals regarding individual course grades. Such appeals should follow the process for appealing a final course grade as described in the University Senate By-Laws, which is endorsed by The Graduate School.

ii. **Proposed change in by-laws language:**

The appeal process does not cover appeals regarding individual course grades. Such appeals should follow the process for appealing a final course grade as described in the University Senate By-Laws, which is endorsed by The Graduate School. However, upon request by a graduate student, the Dean of The Graduate School may extend the deadline for filing a grade appeal in any course (undergraduate or graduate) if the Dean determines that the specific circumstances of the case warrant such an extension.

iii. **Proposed new (clean) by-laws language:**

The appeal process does not cover appeals regarding individual course grades. Such appeals should follow the process for appealing a final course grade as described in the University Senate By-Laws, which is endorsed by The Graduate School. However, upon request by a graduate student, the Dean of The Graduate School may extend the deadline for filing a grade appeal

in any course (undergraduate or graduate) if the Dean determines that the specific circumstances of the case warrant such an extension.

No questions or concerns are mentioned at this time.

- e. Discussion: Proprietary Defenses:
 - i. An instance is brought to the table of whether a student must do a public defense of their dissertation.
 - 1. The issue arose with a student who was attending UConn via an Air Force grant.
 - ii. GFC discusses how to address these matters moving forward when students are being compensated by their place of employment to be here or are using proprietary or patentable data.
 - iii. An additional discussion is had on the values of the university and that taxpayer-based research should be substantially available.
 - 1. It was noted that there is a 10-year embargo available for dissertations to protect proprietary and/or patentable data.
 - iv. Regarding requiring public defenses of dissertation, GFC agreed that:
 - 1. Students can carve out presentable work for a public defense without compromising proprietary or patentable data.
 - 2. Students can still publish academic work without compromising proprietary or patentable data.
 - 3. Students using proprietary or patentable data negotiate in advance with VPR. Dean Holsinger will report back with more information.
 - v. Discussion ensued about whether to require public defenses of dissertations in the bylaws.
- 8. Announcements:
 - a. A brief discussion regarding fee waivers, and how they may inhibit our goal of reaching a diverse group of students.
- 9. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 pm.