



Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Agenda  
3:00 to 5:00 – Wednesday October 26th, 2022  
Virtual meeting via WebEx

---

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> of October 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, Marina Astitha, David Atkin, Fakhreddin Azimi, Talia Bar, Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio*), Deborah Bolnick, Kelly Burke, Kirstie Cope-Farrar, Thomas Craemer, Hannah Dostal, Valerie Duffy, Niloy Dutta, David Embrick, Nathan Fiala, Victoria Ford Smith, Alexandra Freidus, Neal Glaviano, Julie Granger, Travis Grosser, Louis Hanzlik, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio*), Magdalena Kaufmann, Todd Kravet, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Nicole Landi, Anna Lindemann, Jacqueline Loss, Elizabeth Mayerson, D. Betsy McCoach, Ovidiu Munteanu, Julian Norato, William Ouimet, Eugene Pinkhassik, Gianna Raimondi (*Ex-Officio*), Rosa Raudales, Diana Rios, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Alexander Russell, Archana Sanjay, Kurt Schwenk, Helena Silva, Tammie Spaulding, Matthew Stuber, Judith Thorpe, Christine Tocchi, Nathaniel Trumbull, Randall Walikonis, Andrew Wiemer, Suzanne Wilson, Alexander Woodward, Ping Zhang, Yuping Zhang

Absent: Heather Battaly, Christopher Blesso, Zeljko Boskovic, Preston Britner, Moustapha Diaby, Monty Escabi, Meg Feely, Thomas Hayes, Michael J. O'Neill, Guillermo Risatti, Prabhakar Singh, Helen Swede, Aditya Tadinada, Xinyu Zhao

Guests: Karen Bresciano

---

1. The meeting is called to order at 3:04 pm.
2. Presented for voting: Approval of the Minutes from the September 28, 2022, meeting.

- a. A motion is made to approve the previous meeting's minutes by Diana Rios. The motion is seconded by Alfredo Angeles-Boza. The minutes are approved unanimously.
3. Report from Graduate Student Senate.
  - a. No news from the Graduate Student Senate. The upcoming meeting will address the first two GFC meetings of this academic year and will return with a report at the next meeting.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Vote on Proposed Motion re. Popup Courses
    - i. **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 prior question surrounding the potential financial aid implications is addressed. Dean Holsinger reports that under limited circumstances, a student's financial aid eligibility could be impacted if they are not a full-time student/taking fewer than nine credits without a graduate assistantship.

A motion to approve this change is made by Thomas Craemer. The motion is seconded by Andrew Wiemer. The motion is passed unanimously by the Graduate Faculty Council.

- b. Vote on Proposed Motion re. 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 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.*

A motion to approve this change is made by Mary Anne Amalaradjou. The motion is seconded by Alfredo Angeles-Boza. The motion is passed unanimously by the Graduate Faculty Council.

c. **Vote on Proposed Motion re. 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 and subject to the approval of the advisory committee. 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 and subject to the approval of the advisory committee. Proper acknowledgment of authorship should be included in the dissertation.*

A motion to approve this change is made by Thomas Craemer. The motion is seconded by Alfredo Angeles-Boza. The motion is passed with a majority approval by the Graduate Faculty Council.

d. Vote on Proposed Motion re. 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.*

A question is posed regarding a maximum time limit. Dean Holsinger states that there may be circumstances where the appeal may be warranted after a certain amount of time, and therefore, unless language is changed to prohibit such exceptions, there would be no effect in having any time limits. Andrew Wiemer expresses concerns about the lack of a time constraint, and it may even be easier for the Dean not to deal with exceptions from potentially years prior. Karen Bresciano states that those situations would be handled accordingly, and those extenuating time scenarios would be taken into consideration.

Another question is posed regarding the language and implication of a current graduate student requesting an exception. Karen Bresciano states that anyone can ask for an exception at any time, and it would be up to those in charge of making the exception to determine if it is reasonable or not. A counterpoint is made by Andrew Wiemer regarding why the language is needed to be included in the first place. Additionally, Alexander Woodward discusses changing the language to be more specific if it is going to be included, to make it easier on the student interpreting the bylaw. The rebuttal to these arguments made by Mary Bernstein is that this policy is dependent on the University Senate bylaws. Therefore, if they decide to change their procedure, The Graduate School, as a result, would have to edit this language as well. A solution is met that involves linking the University Senate website, so it is easy for students to access.

A motion to approve this change is made by Diana Rios. The motion is seconded by Alfredo Angeles-Boza. The motion is passed with a majority approval by the Graduate Faculty Council.

- e. Vote on Endorsing the new Office of Academic Integrity Policy & Procedures
  - i. Some editorial changes were made to the policy that was distributed to all the Graduate Faculty Council members.

- ii. A motion to approve this change is made by Thomas Craemer. The motion is seconded by Alfredo Angeles-Boza. The motion is passed unanimously by the Graduate Faculty Council.
5. New Business:
- a. Proposed Bylaws Revision Re. Academic Integrity
    - i. Proposed Bylaws Changes related to the Office of Academic Integrity

**Changes to Section X.C.a (COMPLAINT, APPEAL, AND HEARING PROCEDURES)**

*Filing an Appeal:*

*A graduate student may file an appeal with The Graduate School when they disagree ~~are in disagreement~~ with actions taken or academic consequences imposed by an individual faculty member, graduate program, department, school, or college and when all good faith efforts to resolve the concern either through direct communication with the individual(s) involved or through applicable procedures in the graduate program, department, school, or college, have failed. Categories of actions or academic consequences that an appeal might address include, but are not limited to, academic dismissal and termination of status. Appeals related to allegations of academic, scholarly, or professional misconduct are addressed in Section XI. ~~the following:~~*

*~~Academic dismissal.~~*

*~~Termination of status.~~*

*~~Allegation of scholarly misconduct.~~*

*~~Academic consequences imposed by allegation of scholarly misconduct.~~*

- ii. Proposed Bylaws Changes related to Section XI: Scholarly Integrity and Academic Misconduct

*~~Section A. d. The Dean of The Graduate School shall coordinate the reporting, investigation, and determination of alleged breaches of scholarly integrity by graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in accordance with this policy. 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 all of the above 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.

*Section A. f. If a graduate student accused of scholarly misconduct is part of a ~~combined~~ dual degree program where different policies regarding academic misconduct might apply, the ~~appropriate~~ Associate Dean of the Graduate School, ~~(whether for Storrs and the regional campuses or UConn Health)~~ and the academic leader of in conjunction with the dean(s) of the other degree program, will determine whether the complaint will be addressed in accordance with these procedures or in accordance with those of the other degree program, using the procedures of the program to which the alleged misconduct is more germane.*

Deletion of sections XI B, C, and D which will be handled by the new Office.

Section B. Definitions of Scholarly Misconduct

Section C. Addressing Misconduct Allegedly Committed Within an Academic Course

Section D. Misconduct Allegedly Committed Outside of an Academic Course

No discussion items or questions currently.

- b. Proposed Bylaws Revision Re. Sixth Year Certificates & Transfer Credits
  - i. **Current by-laws language (Section VII.C.d.):**

*Certificate students may not use courses completed at other institutions to satisfy requirements for a University of Connecticut certificate program.*

- ii. **Proposed change in by-laws language (Section VII.C.d.):**

*Certificate students may not use courses completed at other institutions to satisfy requirements for a University of Connecticut certificate program. However post-master's/sixth year certificates*

that require 30 or more credits for completion follow the rules for transfer credits if there is an “equivalent master’s degree.” An equivalent master’s degree is one that has the same name and substantially similar requirements as the post-master’s/sixth year certificates.

iii. **Proposed new (clean) by-laws language (Section VII.C.d.):**

*Certificate students may not use courses completed at other institutions to satisfy requirements for a University of Connecticut certificate program. However post-master’s/sixth year certificates that require 30 or more credits for completion follow the rules for transfer credits if there is an “equivalent master’s degree.” An equivalent master’s degree is one that has the same name and substantially similar requirements as the post-master’s/sixth year certificates.*

No discussion items or questions currently.

c. Proposed Bylaws Revision Re. Repeating an Audited Course for Credit

i. **Current by-laws language (Section V.C.a.):**

*Repeating Courses:*

*a. No student shall receive credit for the same course twice, unless repeating the course is specifically authorized in the Graduate Catalog, as in a variable content course. Courses with the same number that cover the same course content cannot be counted more than once for credit. However, a student may repeat a course once in order to earn a higher grade.*

ii. **Proposed change in by-laws language (Section V.C.a.):**

*Repeating Courses:*

*a. No student shall receive credit for the same course twice, unless repeating the course is specifically authorized in the Graduate Catalog, as in a variable content course. Courses with the same number that cover the same course content cannot be counted more than once for credit. However, a student may repeat a course once in order to earn a higher grade. A student may repeat a course once that they have previously audited for credit or converted to pass/fail.*

iii. **Proposed new (clean) by-laws language (Section V.C.a.):**



*Repeating Courses:*

*a. No student shall receive credit for the same course twice, unless repeating the course is specifically authorized in the Graduate Catalog, as in a variable content course. Courses with the same number that cover the same course content cannot be counted more than once for credit. However, a student may repeat a course once in order to earn a higher grade. A student may repeat a course once that they have previously audited for credit or converted to pass/fail.*

A brief discussion is had regarding why this by-law was created in the first place. It is stated that it may be related to students sitting through the course, auditing it, and then taking it again to know the course content and layout. There are no further discussion items.

- d. Proposed Bylaws revision Re. Retaking A Course Converted to Pass/Fail  
i. **Current by-laws language (Section VI.D.):**

*"Pass/Fail: With permission of their major advisor, graduate students are permitted to convert any course, undergraduate or graduate, to a Pass/Fail basis. However, a course that has been converted to a Pass/Fail (or any subsequent retake of that course) cannot be used to meet the requirements for a graduate degree or certificate and cannot be included on a student's final Plan of Study. For graduate students converting a course to Pass/Fail, a passing grade is defined as a grade of C- or higher."*

- ii. **Proposed change in by-laws language (Section VI.D.):**

*"Pass/Fail: With permission of their major advisor, graduate students are permitted to convert any course, undergraduate or graduate, to a Pass/Fail basis. However, a course that has been converted to a Pass/Fail (~~or any subsequent retake of that course~~) cannot be used to meet the requirements for a graduate degree or certificate and cannot be included on a student's final Plan of Study. For graduate students converting a course to Pass/Fail, a passing grade is defined as a grade of C- or higher."*

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

*"Pass/Fail: With permission of their major advisor, graduate students are permitted to convert any course, undergraduate or graduate, to a Pass/Fail basis. However, a course that has been converted to a Pass/Fail cannot be used to meet the requirements for a graduate degree or certificate and cannot be included on a*

*student's final Plan of Study. For graduate students converting a course to Pass/Fail, a passing grade is defined as a grade of C- or higher."*

A brief discussion ensues regarding students who may retake a class even if they passed it. The idea is brought up that a student could be taking up seats in a class when it is not necessary to do so.

Another comment is made to amend the proposed language to say "courses," rather than "any courses."

6. Announcements

a. Marth Award

- i. A recognition of Edward Marth's service to the UConn community through mentoring many faculty colleagues. This award is intended to recognize the recipient for outstanding graduate student mentoring. There is a cash reward as well as the invitation to be the speaker at the doctoral commencement in May. Nominations are due November 21<sup>st</sup>,

b. Emergency Loan Fund

- i. The Graduate Student Senate manages an emergency loan fund. This fund was granted an extra \$50,000 from The Graduate School with assistance from the provost office. However, after conversations with the GSS, there was no documentation surrounding this development. Dean Holsinger drafted up some official documentation in case it is needed in the future.

c. Supreme Court

- i. On Monday, 10/31, the Supreme Court will be hearing arguments from two separate cases regarding the fairness of considering race in admissions into universities across the United States. The current make-up of the Supreme Court may indicate a significant change to existing laws. In January, after the decisions on this matter have settled, a discussion will be held at the Graduate Faculty Council meeting with guest Lesley Salafia.

d. Midterm Grade Warnings

- i. Be on the lookout and be willing to aid students who are asking for assistance and support during this time.

e. Application Fee

- i. Discussions have been had with the budget office, and they stated that fee waivers may be too plentiful at this time. Further discussion is set to take place with this office. Additionally, a question is raised by Valerie Duffy regarding how a department would go about paying for an application fee for specific perspective students.

7. A motion to adjourn the meeting is made by D. Betsy McCoach. The motion is seconded by Niloy Dutta. The Graduate Faculty Council meeting is adjourned at 4:28 pm.