



Date: Wednesday, March 23rd, 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 Nienhusser, 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: Cinnamon Adams, Karen Bresciano, Anne Lanzit

1. The meeting of the GFC was called to order at 3:02pm.
2. Presented for voting: Approval of the Minutes from the February 23rd, 2022 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by The Graduate Faculty Council.
3. Report from Graduate Student Senate. No report or update from the Graduate Student Senate.
4. Announcements:
 - a. Announcements from the Graduate Dean:
 - i. The contract agreement with the Graduate Assistant Union has been reached. Among other changes, the agreement includes an increase in base stipends at all three levels, a new policy on protection for graduate students against discrimination, sexual harassment, and other issues that may arise. There is new language regarding acknowledgement of cultural holidays. Advisors are encouraged to work with their advisees to accommodate these needs. The contract includes language regarding that,

if Juneteenth became a state holiday, it would be included as a holiday in the agreement.

- ii. Graduate Faculty are invited to participate in the University's Three Minute Thesis event. Faculty should contact Stuart Duncan if they are interested.
- iii. GFC Representatives that are changing should send those updates to The Graduate School via their main email contact to designate or update the representative. If there are no changes, no notice is necessary, and the representative from the previous year will be carried over.

b. Update on Academic and Scholarly Integrity Task Force

- i. The Task Force will not bring anything to a vote with the GFC until next academic year, 2022-2023

5. 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 (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.

Student may also apply for a Plan B master's degree in their Ph.D. field of study (if one is offered) if they meet 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 was discussed and will be brought to the GFC for a vote at its next meeting.

- 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:

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 the major advisor, 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 with that field of study.

The proposal was discussed and will be brought to the GFC for a vote at its next meeting, with slight modification.

6. New Business

- a. 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) 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 this language.

The proposal was discussed and will be brought to the GFC for a vote at its next meeting.

7. The March meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting of the Graduate Faculty Council will be held on Wednesday April 27th, 2022.