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Date: Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, from 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: WebEx Conference

Subject: **Executive Committee (EC) of The Graduate School meeting minutes**

Attendees: Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio*), Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), David Embrick, Mitchell Green, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio, Chair*), Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio*), Charles Mahoney, Betsy McCoach, Judith Thorpe

Absent: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Kristin Bott, Etan Markus, Rosa Raudales

Guests: Laura Curran, Scott Harding, Milagros Marrero-Johnson

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1. The meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 3:03 p.m.
2. Presentation and vote for past meeting minutes, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023: The minutes from this EC meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Presented for consideration and voting – *Modify/Change existing degree or certificate program* (GPAR 23-MARR-1XBE3K) Online MSW
  - a. Sponsoring School/College: Social Work
  - b. Presenter(s): Laura Curran  
Scott Harding  
Milagros Marrero-Johnson

Laura Curran, Dean of the School of Social Work, with assistance from Scott Harding and Milagros Marrero-Johnson, presented on the addition of a solely-online Master of Social Work program. After Curran’s start as Dean earlier this year, she began to look into some data surrounding lower application numbers and a slight decrease in enrollment as well. After analysis of this data, the decision was made that, in order to stay on track with local competitors and national standards, the MSW program would benefit greatly by adding an online only option. Additionally, Curran has spoken with active MSW students who state that more flexibility would be welcomed, since many are adult learners with other commitments. The curriculum of the program will remain entirely intact; only changes to the delivery format of the content will be made.

Betsy McCoach asked for clarification regarding how internships, a major component of the program, would work with a strictly online modality. Curran said that internships will still be performed in the field and coordinated by the program, even if a student is residing in another state. Additionally, McCoach asked about an online student wanting to take a course in-person, which Curran stated was against UConn policy if they were fully online. Charles Mahoney asked for more information regarding why application and enrollment numbers are down. Curran explained that there are other competitive programs in the area, as well as general lower numbers post-pandemic. Mitchell Green followed-up with a question regarding what makes UConn's Social Work program stand out and desirable in comparison to lower priced programs in the area. Curran stated the nature of being a research-intensive institution and a Top 50 national program is one factor that attracts students. Marrero-Johnson also stated that students have a plethora of external opportunities in the field that prepare them for the workforce that are exclusive to UConn.

A motion to approve was made by Charles Mahoney and seconded by David Embrick. The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposal unanimously.

4. The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 3:29 p.m. The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.