



Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Agenda
3:00 to 5:00 – Wednesday, October 25th, 2023
Virtual meeting via WebEx

Date: 25th of October 2023, 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 (*Moderator*), Marina Astitha, David Atkin, Fakhreddin Azimi, Talia Bar, Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio, Associate Dean*), Christopher Blesso, Deborah Bolnick, Karen Bresciano (*Ex-Officio, Assistant Dean*), Kirstie Cope-Ferrar, Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), Lauren Corso, Thomas Craemer, Jose Cruz, Khaled “Axel” Djebbari (*GSS Representative*), Hannah Dostal, Victoria Ford Smith, Neal Glaviano, Preston Green, Robin Grenier, Miao Guo, Louis Hanzlik, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio, Dean & Chair*), Michael Hren, Magdalena Kaufmann, Todd Kravet, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio, Associate Dean*), Jacqueline Loss, William Ouimet, Jeremy Pais, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Alexander Russell, Kurt Schwenk, Reza Sheikhi, Helena Silva, Tammie Spaulding, Luyi Sun, Judith Thorpe, Randall Walikonis, Andrew Wiemer, Alexander Woodward, Xinyu Zhao

Absent: Heather Battaly, Vasilis Chousionis, Monty Escabi, Meg Feely, Nathan Fiala, David Gregorio, Travis Grosser, Thomas Hayes, Julia Kuzovkina, Anson Ma, Elizabeth Mayerson, Betsy McCoach, Michael O’Neill, Eugene Pinkhassik, Heather Read, Diana Rios, Guillermo Risatti, Beth Russell, Archana Sanjay, Prabhakar Singh, Aditya Tadinada, Carlos Trallero, Nathaniel Trumbull, Penny Vlahos, Ping Zhang, Yuping Zhang

Guests: Lesley Salafia

1. The meeting is called to order at 3:02 pm.
2. Presented for voting: Approval of the Minutes from the September 27, 2023, meeting.

- a. A motion to approve was made by Thomas Craemer and seconded by Alexander Woodward. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Graduate Faculty Council.
3. Report from Graduate Student Senate
 - a. Khaled Axel Djebbari from the Graduate Student Senate reported that they are currently collecting feedback on the newly launched Network for Enriched Mentoring program and will present that data at the November GFC meeting.
4. Graduate Admissions after Students for Fair Admissions, Senior Associate University Counsel, UConn, Lesley Salafia
 - a. Lesley Salafia from the Office of the General Counsel presented jointly with Dean Holsinger on the recent Supreme Court ruling that will affect college admissions processes across the nation. Together, they outlined to the GFC the new rules and regulations enforced by law. The university can no longer utilize a direct consideration of race in the evaluation and selection of a prospective student, but they can consider the applicant's lived experiences and can engage in targeted recruitment and marketing.
 - b. Salafia, Dean Holsinger, and council member Preston Green were able to answer multiple questions regarding the intricacies of the law. Members of the Graduate Faculty Council were urged to be cautious and not to inquire about anything that could have a direct connection to race during the admissions process.
 - c. The council was also encouraged not to change practices that weren't touched upon in the Supreme Court ruling, including current processes surrounding multi-lingual and international applicants.
 - d. Future presentations on this ruling will be held for all members of the faculty, and the university will be able to adjust specific guidelines and requirements based on the data taken from the current admissions cycle.
5. Old Business
 - a. Vote on Proposed Bylaws Revision Re. Definition of "Full-Time" for Admissions
 - i. **Current by-laws language (Section III.E.c.):**
 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:
 - A cumulative GPA for their most recent degree of 3.0 or higher for the entire degree, or
 - If the most recent degree is an undergraduate degree or the student has not yet completed their undergraduate degree:
 - A GPA of 3.0 or higher for the entire two most recent years of full-time undergraduate coursework, or
 - A GPA of 3.5 or higher for the entire most recent year of full-time undergraduate coursework, or
 - 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.

ii. Proposed Changes by-laws language (Section III.E.c.):

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:

- A cumulative GPA for their most recent degree of 3.0 or higher for the entire degree, or
- If the most recent degree is an undergraduate degree or the student has not yet completed their undergraduate degree:
 - A GPA of 3.0 or higher for the entire two most recent years of full-time undergraduate coursework, or
 - A GPA of 3.5 or higher for the entire most recent year of full-time undergraduate coursework, or
- If a student has taken **the equivalent of** at least one semester of full-time study (**9 credits or more**) 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.

iii. Proposed New (Clean) by-laws language (Section III.E.c.):

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:

- A cumulative GPA for their most recent degree of 3.0 or higher for the entire degree, or
- If the most recent degree is an undergraduate degree or the student has not yet completed their undergraduate degree:
 - A GPA of 3.0 or higher for the entire two most recent years of full-time undergraduate coursework, or
 - A GPA of 3.5 or higher for the entire most recent year of full-time undergraduate coursework, or
- If a student has taken the equivalent of at least one semester of full-time study (9 credits or more) 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.

A motion to approve was made by Mary Anne Amalaradjou and seconded by Thomas Craemer. The motion was approved by the Graduate Faculty Council with a majority vote.

b. Vote on Proposed Bylaws Revision Re. Provisional Status for Admissions

i. Current by-laws language (Section III.F):

a). 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.

b). Students admitted provisionally must have a cumulative baccalaureate grade point average of 2.6 or higher.

c). If a provisional student's initial 12 credits of completed degree coursework (excluding 1000-level courses) or 3 credits of completed certificate coursework meet the minimum scholastic requirement of The Graduate School, the student is accorded regular status. Otherwise, the student is subject to dismissal. In situations where special consideration is warranted, and only upon the specific request of the major advisor, the Dean of The Graduate School may approve changing a student to regular status if at least nine credits of advanced coursework have been completed with grades of A or A-.

d). Regular, not provisional, status is required for degree conferral.

ii. **Proposed Changes by-laws language (Section III.F):** Adds new section C and revises what is now section D.

c). **Students may be admitted provisionally to a certificate program if they have completed three credits of the certificate coursework with a 3.0 GPA or higher.**

d). If **the initial 12 credits of degree coursework completed by** a provisional student admitted to a master's program' ~~initial 12 credits of completed degree coursework~~ (excluding 1000-level courses) **meets the minimum scholastic requirement of The Graduate School, the student is accorded regular status. If the initial 6 credits of degree coursework completed by a provisional student admitted to a certificate program meet the minimum scholastic requirement of The Graduate School, the student is accorded regular status.** ~~or 3 credits of completed certificate coursework meet the minimum scholastic requirement of The Graduate School, the student is accorded regular status.~~ Otherwise, the student is subject to dismissal. In situations where special consideration is warranted, and only upon the specific request of the major advisor, the Dean of The Graduate School may approve changing a **master's** student to regular status if at least nine credits of advanced coursework have been completed with grades of A or A-.

iii. **Proposed New (Clean) by-laws language (Section III.F):** Adds new section C and revises what is now section D.

c). Students may be admitted provisionally to a certificate program if they have completed three credits of the certificate coursework with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

d). If the initial 12 credits of degree coursework completed by a provisional student admitted to a master's program' (excluding 1000-level courses) meets the minimum scholastic requirement of The Graduate School, the student is accorded regular status. If the initial 6 credits of degree coursework completed by a provisional student admitted to a

certificate program meet the minimum scholastic requirement of The Graduate School, the student is accorded regular status. Otherwise, the student is subject to dismissal. In situations where special consideration is warranted, and only upon the specific request of the major advisor, the Dean of The Graduate School may approve changing a master's student to regular status if at least nine credits of advanced coursework have been completed with grades of A or A-.

A motion to approve was made by Mary Anne Amalaradjou and seconded by Thomas Craemer. The motion was approved by the Graduate Faculty Council unanimously.

c. Vote on Proposed Bylaws Revisions Re. co-major advisors

i. **Current by-laws language (Section VIII.A.c.):**

Occasionally, it may be desirable or appropriate for a student to have co-major advisors (not more than two). Each co-major advisor must hold an appropriate Graduate Faculty appointment in the student's field of study and area of concentration (if applicable).

ii. **Proposed Changes by-laws language (Section VIII.A.c.):**

Occasionally, it may be desirable or appropriate for a student to have co-major advisors (not more than two). Each co-major advisor must hold an appropriate Graduate Faculty appointment in the student's field of study and area of concentration (if applicable). **Only one co-major advisor must be from the student's home department. Co-major advisors outside the student's home department must be approved by the student's home department.**

iii. **Proposed New (Clean) by-laws language (Section VIII.A.c.):**

Occasionally, it may be desirable or appropriate for a student to have co-major advisors (not more than two). Each co-major advisor must hold an appropriate Graduate Faculty appointment in the student's field of study and area of concentration (if applicable). Only one co-major advisor must be from the student's home department. Co-major advisors outside the student's home department must be approved by the student's home department.

iv. **Adds language (Section VIII.A.f.): Regarding resignation of a major advisor.**

In cases where a student has co-major advisors, the other co-major advisor becomes the advisor if they are in the student's home department.

v. **Current by-laws language (Section VIII.A.i.):**

If the advisory committee consists of three members, decisions must be unanimous. If the advisory committee consists of four or more members, decisions are considered adopted if there is no more than one negative vote, although the major advisor must always vote in the affirmative. For Ph.D. students, advisory committee decisions involving the outcome of the General Examination, approval of the Dissertation Proposal, oral defense

of the dissertation, or approval of the dissertation itself, must be unanimous.

vi. **Proposed Changes by-laws language (Section VIII.A.i):**

If the advisory committee consists of three members, decisions must be unanimous. If the advisory committee consists of four or more members, decisions are considered adopted if there is no more than one negative vote, although the major advisor **or both co-major advisors** must always vote in the affirmative. For Ph.D. students, advisory committee decisions involving the outcome of the General Examination, approval of the Dissertation Proposal, oral defense of the dissertation, or approval of the dissertation itself, must be unanimous.

vii. **Proposed New (Clean) by-laws language (Section VIII.A.i):**

If the advisory committee consists of three members, decisions must be unanimous. If the advisory committee consists of four or more members, decisions are considered adopted if there is no more than one negative vote, although the major advisor or both co-major advisors must always vote in the affirmative. For Ph.D. students, advisory committee decisions involving the outcome of the General Examination, approval of the Dissertation Proposal, oral defense of the dissertation, or approval of the dissertation itself, must be unanimous.

viii. **Current by-laws language (Section VIII.A.k):**

If deemed appropriate by a graduate student's major advisor, the major advisor may request that a suitably qualified external associate advisor be appointed to the student's advisory committee. Such requests should be made in writing to The Graduate School. The request should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae for the individual being recommended for appointment. Such appointments are made on the basis of advanced training and significant experience in the field of study. An appointment as external associate advisor is limited to an individual student's advisory committee and does not imply in any way membership on the Graduate Faculty of the University. Ordinarily, not more than one external associate advisor is appointed to any master's or doctoral student's advisory committee. The major advisor and at least one associate advisor on any doctoral student's advisory committee must be members of the University's Graduate Faculty.

ix. **Proposed Changes by-laws language (Section VIII.A.k):**

If deemed appropriate by a graduate student's major advisor **or both co-major advisors**, the major advisor **or both co-major advisors** may request that a suitably qualified external associate advisor be appointed to the student's advisory committee. Such requests should be made in writing to The Graduate School. The request should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae for the individual being recommended for appointment. Such appointments are made on the basis of advanced training and significant experience in the field of study. An appointment as external associate advisor is limited to an individual student's advisory committee

and does not imply in any way membership on the Graduate Faculty of the University. Ordinarily, not more than one external associate advisor is appointed to any master's or doctoral student's advisory committee. The major advisor **or both co-major advisors** and at least one associate advisor on any doctoral student's advisory committee must be members of the University's Graduate Faculty.

x. **Proposed New (Clean) by-laws language (Section VIII.A.k.):**

If deemed appropriate by a graduate student's major advisor or both co-major advisors, the major advisor or both co-major advisors may request that a suitably qualified external associate advisor be appointed to the student's advisory committee. Such requests should be made in writing to The Graduate School. The request should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae for the individual being recommended for appointment. Such appointments are made on the basis of advanced training and significant experience in the field of study. An appointment as external associate advisor is limited to an individual student's advisory committee and does not imply in any way membership on the Graduate Faculty of the University. Ordinarily, not more than one external associate advisor is appointed to any master's or doctoral student's advisory committee. The major advisor or both co-major advisors and at least one associate advisor on any doctoral student's advisory committee must be members of the University's Graduate Faculty.

xi. **Current by-laws language (Section VIII.A.l.):**

The major advisor of any master's or doctoral student is responsible for coordinating the supervisory work of the advisory committee. Therefore, when the major advisor is to be on leave or is not in residence, it is the major advisor's responsibility to appoint an acting major advisor. The acting major advisor must be a member of the University's Graduate Faculty or be fully eligible for such an appointment. The acting major advisor will assume all duties and responsibilities of the major advisor for the duration of the appointment. The major advisor will inform The Graduate School of the appointment and provide any information that may be required concerning the credentials of the acting major advisor.

xii. **Proposed Changes by-laws language (Section VIII.A.l.):**

The major advisor **or both co-major advisors** of any master's or doctoral student is/**are** responsible for coordinating the supervisory work of the advisory committee. Therefore, when the major advisor is to be on leave or is not in residence, it is the major advisor's responsibility to appoint an acting major advisor. The acting major advisor must be a member of the University's Graduate Faculty or be fully eligible for such an appointment. The acting major advisor will assume all duties and responsibilities of the major advisor for the duration of the appointment. The major advisor will inform The Graduate School of the appointment and provide any information that may be required concerning the credentials of the acting major advisor. **In cases of co-major advisors, the co-major advisor who**

is not on leave will be responsible while the other co-major advisor is on leave.

- xiii. **Proposed New (Clean) by-laws language (Section VIII.A.l):**
The major advisor or both co-major advisors of any master's or doctoral student is/are responsible for coordinating the supervisory work of the advisory committee. Therefore, when the major advisor is to be on leave or is not in residence, it is the major advisor's responsibility to appoint an acting major advisor. The acting major advisor must be a member of the University's Graduate Faculty or be fully eligible for such an appointment. The acting major advisor will assume all duties and responsibilities of the major advisor for the duration of the appointment. The major advisor will inform The Graduate School of the appointment and provide any information that may be required concerning the credentials of the acting major advisor. In cases of co-major advisors, the co-major advisor who is not on leave will be responsible while the other co-major advisor is on leave.

A motion to approve was made by Mary Anne Amalaradjou and seconded by Marina Astitha. The motion was approved by the Graduate Faculty Council unanimously.

- d. Vote on Proposed Bylaws Revisions Re. Advisory Committee Appointments by the Dean of The Graduate School
- i. **Current by-laws language (Section VIII.A.h.):**
In addition to the three or more members of the student's advisory committee, another member, ordinarily a member of the Graduate Faculty outside the student's field of study but in a related field, may be appointed by the Dean of The Graduate School.
 - ii. **Proposed Changes by-laws language (Section VIII.A.h.):**
~~In addition to the three or more members of the student's advisory committee, another member, ordinarily a member of the Graduate Faculty outside the student's field of study but in a related field, may be appointed by the Dean of The Graduate School.~~

A motion to approve was made by Marina Astitha and seconded by Mary Anne Amalaradjou. The motion was approved by the Graduate Faculty Council unanimously.

6. Announcements:
- a. Kristin Bott and Rosa Raudales will end their terms on the Executive Committee this December. Newly elected and appointed members Marina Astitha, Etan Markus, and Royce Mohan will join the committee in January 2024, with terms ending in June 2026.
7. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Khaled Axel Djebbari and seconded by Neal Glaviano. The Graduate Faculty Council meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm. The next GFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29th, 2023, at 3:00 pm.