



Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Agenda
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm – Wednesday, January 24th, 2024
Virtual meeting via WebEx

Date: 24th of January 2024, 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, Talia Bar, Mary Bernstein (*Ex-Officio, Associate Dean*), Deborah Bolnick, Karen Bresciano (*Ex-Officio, Assistant Dean*), Kirstie Coper-Ferrar, Jack Corcoran (*Ex-Officio, Recording Secretary*), Thomas Craemer, Jose Cruz, Hannah Dostal, Preston Green, Travis Grosser, Miao Guo, Thomas Hayes, Ashley Helton, Kent Holsinger (*Ex-Officio, Dean & Chair*), Magdalena Kaufmann, Heejoo Kim, Todd Kravet, Barbara Kream (*Ex-Officio, Associate Dean*), Jacqueline Loss, Yangchao Luo, Betsy McCoach, Julian Norato, William Ouimet, Eugene Pinkhassik, Heather Read, Diana Rios, Chadwick Rittenhouse, Beth Russell, Archana Sanjay, Kurt Schwenk, Leslie Shor (*Ex-Officio*), Helena Silva, Tammie Spaulding, Ron Squibbs, Matthew Stuber, Helen Swede, Penny Vlahos, Randall Walikonis, Andrew Wiemer, Ping Zhang

Absent: Heather Battaly, Vasilis Chousionis, Lauren Corso, Khaled “Axel” Djebbari (*GSS Representative*), Monty Escabi, Meg Feely, Nathan Fiala, Victoria Ford Smith, Neal Glaviano, Michael Hren, Julia Kuzovkina, Anson Ma, Elizabeth Mayerson, Michael O’Neill, Jeremy Pais, Guillermo Risatti, Alexander Russell, Prabhakar Singh, Aditya Tadinada, Judith Thorpe, Carlos Trallero, Nathaniel Trumbull, Janet Watson, Alexander Woodward, Yuping Zhang, Xinyu Zhao

Guests: Kimberly Curry, Laurie McCarty, Rachel Prunier

1. The meeting is called to order at 3:03 pm.
2. Presented for Voting: Approval of the Minutes from the November 29, 2023, meeting.

- a. A motion to approve was made by Thomas Craemer and seconded by Heather Read. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Graduate Faculty Council.
3. Report from the Graduate Student Senate
 - a. Dean Holsinger provided an update on the current status of the Graduate Student Senate. He detailed multiple changes in their Executive Board, and assured the council that The Graduate School is actively involved with the group to aid them in these changes.
4. CETL Resources for Graduate Students, Rachel Prunier, Director of Teaching and Learning in the Life & Physical Sciences *in the* Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
 - a. Rachel Prunier from CETL visited the GFC to discuss what they have to offer to graduate students across the University.
 - b. To begin, Prunier stressed the importance of how important it is to train GAs/TAs on how to teach, and promoted the one-credit, GRAD 6000 course that centers around the introduction to learning theory and pedagogy and provides instruction and practice on how to make inclusive, active, and engaged classrooms.
 - c. Prunier also promoted UConn's recent use of the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL). This is a network of institutions investing in preparing current graduate students for their careers after their degree. Additionally, they provide credentialing and professional development opportunities geared towards this initiative.
 - d. Finally, Prunier highlighted CETL'S Professional Development Workshop series occurring throughout the semester, and the weekly "TEAching Tuesdays" open office hours for TAs she holds at the Beanery campus café.
5. New Business
 - a. Proposed Bylaws Revision Re. 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 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.

ii. **Proposed 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 *or any prior* degree at the baccalaureate level or higher 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. **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 or any prior degree at the baccalaureate level or higher 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.

6. Discussion: Mentorship Training

- a. Dean Holsinger began the discussion relating to the improvements in mentorship that have occurred within The Graduate School. He suggested that he would ideally like to create a mandatory mentorship training program that would be required for faculty to participate in before being appointed to the graduate faculty.

- b. Associate Dean Bernstein discussed their current plan for this approach which would start with incoming faculty, and train other faculty to co-lead sessions and eventually become certified to facilitate these trainings to broaden the pool of faculty associates and expand further.
 - c. A few members of the GFC voiced that it may be in the best interest of this helpful program to have a trial period before being broadcast publicly. Associate Dean Bernstein emphasized the proven efficacy of the training as been across the country, and only requiring it of new faculty to begin with would serve sufficiently as a trial period.
 - d. Additionally, another conversation regarding the training of senior faculty was brought forth. Dean Holsinger stated that it wouldn't be possible to do it immediately but is an overarching goal of the initiative that they plan to achieve in the future.
7. Announcements
 - a. Dean Holsinger and Assistant Dean Bresciano introduced the new Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support, Kim Curry, to the council.
 - b. Assistant Dean Bresciano stressed the importance of grading graduate student course work, as the Registrar's Office recently encountered over 300 outstanding graduate grade rosters for the Fall 2023 semester.
 - c. Dean Holsinger informed the GFC that The Graduate School is on track to receive a record number of applications for the Fall 2024 semester.
8. The Graduate Faculty Council meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm. The next GFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th, 2024, at 3:00 pm.