



Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Location: ITE Building, Conference Room 336

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Hector Aguila, Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Marina Astitha, Gerardo Blanco, Christopher Blesso, Daniel Bolnick, Karen Bresciano (*Ex Officio*), Preston Britner, Yongku Cho, Kenneth Couch, Jose Cruz, Caroline Dealy, Anne Delany, Jennifer Dineen, Anna Dongari-Bagtzoglou, Jeffrey Dudas, Valerie Duffy, Susan Glenney (Alternate), Martin Han, Amir Herzberg (Alternate), Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio*), Todd Kravet, Barbara Kream (*Ex Officio*), Nicole Landi, Jacqueline Loss, Charles Mahoney (Moderator), D. Betsy McCoach (Alternate), Myers, Kathryn (sub for Judith Thorpe), William Ouimet, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary*), Dan Pejril, Victoria Robinson, Kathy Segerson (*Ex Officio*), Anji Seth, Helena Silva, Prabhakar Singh, David Solomon, Ron Squibbs, Matthew Stuber (Alternate), Steven Szczepanek, Charles Towe, Penny Vlahos, Bing Wang, Xiaojing Wang, and Suzanne Wilson.

Absent: Richard Anyah, Zeljko Boskovic, Amanda Denes, Niloy Dutta, Megan Feely, Victoria Ford Smith, Lewis Gordon, David Gregorio, Michelle Judge, , Elaine Lee, Samuel Martinez, Nancy Naples, Heather Read, Cristian Schulthess, Richard Sosis, Gregory Sotzing, Jiong Tang, Judith Thorpe (sabbatical), Damaris Thuita (GSS), Anastasios Tzingounis, Mark Urban, Janet Watson, Edward Weingart and Andrew Wiemer

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1. Agenda item number one (1) – Call to order. The meeting of the GFC for November 20, 2019 was called to order at 3:04 pm.
 2. Agenda item number two (2) – Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting of the GFC were presented. There was a motion to accept the minutes offered, which was seconded and the motion was adopted in favor by all members present. **Agenda item number two (2) was passed unanimously without dissent on a show of hands.**
 3. Agenda item number three (3) – Announcements from the Dean.
 - a. Results on the vote taken to approve the revision of the Graduate School By-laws:
 - i. The revised Graduate School by-laws were approved by a vote of 342 approved and 16 opposed. Thus the new by-laws were adopted
 - ii. The by-laws will go into effect immediately.
 - iii. Terms of representation to the GFC do not officially carry over beyond this academic year. Departments can determine not only the appointed representative to the GFC but also the length of the term that person would serve. The Graduate School will no longer hold a voting session to determine representatives.
 4. Agenda item number four (4) – Report from the Graduate Student Senate. The representative from the Graduate Student Senate was absent so there was no report given.

5. Agenda item number five (5) – Old Business. There was no old business.
6. Agenda item number six (6) – New business – presented for discussion
 - a. Elimination of A+ Grades
 - i. Currently The Graduate School uses grades of A+ through F while UConn undergraduate grades range from A through F. This could be a problem for undergrads who take grad courses and are not allowed to earn the same grade as a graduate student with comparable performance. It is also not in keeping with the current practices of other peer universities.
 - ii. It is suggested that The Graduate School discontinue awarding A+ grades. A note on all transcripts would state that in fall of 2020 this change was made and The Graduate School now only awards A through F grades, no longer utilizing the A+ grade. Any grades of A+ made prior to fall 2020 would remain on the transcript.
 - iii. The following change to Section VI.A.a of the GFC by-laws was presented for discussion:

Explanation	Final Grades	Grade Points
Distinction	A+	4.3
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7

- iv. A discussion of this change should be taken back to the programs by the GFC representatives to determine what the constituency thinks of this change. Then a vote will be taken at the January meeting regarding this change.
- b. Scholastic Probation
 - i. The Graduate School does not currently have a probationary period that can be used prior to dismissing a student from the program for poor performance.
 - ii. The Graduate School is considering proposing the creation of a probationary status, based primarily on low GPA and/or receipt of any failing grade (D/F/U). The student would then be given the opportunity to continue for one more semester. If the student has returned to acceptable grade status for the program, then the determination would be if the student has the ability to continue to make normal progress with course materials and research, and have the ability to think critically. It is at this point the student would either be returned to regular status or dismissed from the program.
 - iii. A question arose about the desirability of having some grade for research credits (GRAD 5950/6950) between S and U that would allow the student to continue in the

program without being dismissed but signal that the student is not performing at the expected level.

- iv. Once again it was suggested that this discussion be taken back to the programs for discussion amongst the constituency.

c. New Grade Appeal Process

- i. The Senate has adopted a new grade appeal process. The Graduate School follows the Senate grade appeal process, which means that the new rules will apply to graduate courses/students as well unless the GFC acts to adopt a different set of rules. The need for this was discussed, and the general consensus is that the GFC should see how the new Senate rules work before proposing any changes.

- 7. There was a motion offered for adjournment, which was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.

- 8. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for January 29th in Storrs Hall, Conference Room WW 16.