

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Location: Webex due to pandemic

Subject: Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Richard Anyah, David Atkin, Robert Bird (sub for Jose Cruz), Christopher Blesso, Deborah Bolnick, Boskovic, Zeljko, Kristin Bott, Karen Bresciano (*Ex Officio*), Preston Britner, Kelly Burke, Kristie Cope-Farrar, Kenneth Couch, Mustapha Diaby, Jennifer Dineen, Hannah Dostal, Valerie Duffy, Niloy Dutta, David Embrick, Megan Feely, Martin Han, Kent Holsinger (*Ex Officio*), Rahul Kanadia, Todd Kravet, Barbara Kream (*Ex Officio*), Louise Lewis, Charles Mahoney (Moderator), D. Betsy McCoach, Royce Mohan, Michael Morrell, Ovidiu Munteanu, Kenny Nienhusser, Barbara Parziale (*Ex Officio – Secretary*), Dan Pejril (sub for Joel Salisbury), David Pierce, Jessica Rouge (sub for Eugene Pinkhassik), Alexander Russell, Irio Schiano (GSS), Kathy Segerson (*Ex Officio*), Helena Silva, Tammie Spaulding, Helene Swede, Matthew Stuber (sub for Yongku Cho), Rachel Theodore, Judith Thorpe, Penny Vlahos, Andrew Weimer, Alexander Woodward, Peter Zarrow and Ping Zhang (sub for Victoria Robinson).

Absent: Marina Astitha, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Yongku Cho, Jose Cruz, Nathan Fiala, Susan Glenney, Mitch Green, Julia Kuzovkina, Jacqueline Loss, Michael O’Neill, William Ouimet, Eugene Pinkhassik, Victoria Robinson, Joel Salisbury, Anji Seth, Prabhakar Singh, Victoria Smith, Ron Squibbs, Aditya Tadinada, and Yuping Zhang.

Guests: Josh Gil and Spencer Soddenberg from GSS and Scott Harding.

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1. The meeting was held on a Webex site due to the coronavirus.
2. Agenda item number two (2) – Call to order. The meeting of the GFC for November 18, 2020 was called to order at 3:04 pm.
3. Agenda item number three (3) – Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the October 28, 2020 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 three (3) was passed unanimously without dissent on a voice vote.**
4. The Graduate Student Senate Parliamentarian, Irio Schiano, was accompanied by fellow Student Senate members Josh Gil and Spencer Soddenberg. The students expressed their concern with agenda item 5c on the November GFC meeting agenda. After hearing them discuss the issues, it was determined that their discussion should be incorporated with the council discussion when the meeting reaches that point.
5. Agenda item number five (5) – Old Business (for voting)

- a. Presented for consideration and voting: Proposed Elimination of Related/Foreign Language Requirement. The suggested action was to delete Section VII.D of GFC By-laws ("*Related Area and/or Foreign Language Requirement for Ph.D.*") and all references to it in the GFC By-laws. After reviewing how our peer and aspirant universities treat this issue, the following motion was made and seconded

**Motion:** Delete Section VII.D of GFC By-laws ("*Related Area and/or Foreign Language Requirement for Ph.D.*") and all references to it in the GFC By-laws. The motion was approved unanimously. **Agenda item 5a was passed unanimously to eliminate the related/foreign language requirement.**

- b. Presented for consideration and voting: Change in Diploma Terminology  
Because accreditation uses the name Sixth Year Certificate for the Neag School of Education's currently named "Sixth Year Diploma," it was determined that the term "diploma" be replaced with "certificate" throughout the GFC By-laws. Following a brief discussion, the following motion was made and seconded:

**Motion:** Change the name of the Neag School of Education's "Sixth Year Diploma" to "Sixth Year Certificate" (and replace "diploma" with "certificate") throughout the GFC By-laws.

The motion was approved unanimously. **Agenda item 5b was passed unanimously to change the name of the Neag School of Education Sixth Year Diploma to Sixth Year Certificate.**

- c. Presented for consideration and voting: Flexibility regarding Additional Requirements for Ph.D.: Proposed change to Section VII.A.b (Standards and Degree Requirements, Credits, Doctor of Philosophy)

Current Language:

Doctor of Philosophy programs: The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) requires a minimum of 30 credits of content coursework beyond the baccalaureate (or its equivalent) or at least 15 credits of content coursework beyond the master's degree or other advanced degree in the same or a closely-related field of study (exclusive of any required Related Area), as well as satisfactory completion of at least 15 credits of GRAD 6950 (Doctoral Dissertation Research) or GRAD 6960 (Full-Time Doctoral Dissertation Research). Some programs also require a foreign language or related area (see Section VII.D). The degree will be conferred only after the advisory committee is convinced that the student has developed independence of judgment and mature scholarship in the chosen field.

After a lengthy discussion and multiple suggested amendments to the original proposal, the following final motion was made and seconded:

**Motion:** To approve the following changes to Section VII.A.b of the GFC by-laws:

Doctor of Philosophy programs: The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) requires a minimum of 30 credits of content coursework beyond the baccalaureate (or its equivalent) or at least 15

credits of content coursework beyond the master's degree or other advanced degree in the same or a closely-related field of study (exclusive of any required Related Area), as well as satisfactory completion of at least 15 credits of GRAD 6950 (Doctoral Dissertation Research) or GRAD 6960 (Full-Time Doctoral Dissertation Research). Some programs also require a foreign language or related area (see Section VII.D). The degree will be conferred only after the advisory committee ~~is convinced~~ has determined that the student has met the standard of developed independence of judgment and mature scholarship in the chosen field. The advisory committee has the flexibility to determine what is needed to meet this standard, provided (1) the standard meets the relevant minimum Graduate School requirements set forth in these by-laws and the program requirements set forth in the graduate catalog, (2) the standard is clearly articulated to the student prior to filing of the dissertation proposal, and (3) the standard is applied in an equitable and non-discriminatory way.

Clean Copy of Approved New Language:

Doctor of Philosophy programs: The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) requires a minimum of 30 credits of content coursework beyond the baccalaureate (or its equivalent) or at least 15 credits of content coursework beyond the master's degree or other advanced degree in the same or a closely-related field of study (exclusive of any required Related Area), as well as satisfactory completion of at least 15 credits of GRAD 6950 (Doctoral Dissertation Research) or GRAD 6960 (Full-Time Doctoral Dissertation Research). Some programs also require a foreign language or related area (see Section VII.D). The degree will be conferred only after the advisory committee has determined that the student has met the standard of independence of judgment and mature scholarship in the chosen field. The advisory committee has the flexibility to determine what is needed to meet this standard, provided (1) the standard meets the relevant minimum Graduate School requirements set forth in these by-laws and the program requirements set forth in the graduate catalog, (2) the standard is clearly articulated to the student prior to filing of the dissertation proposal, and (3) the standard is applied in an equitable and non-discriminatory way.

The final motion was passed by a majority vote (34-1). **Agenda item number 5c was passed as amended by a majority vote.**

6. New Business (for discussion)  
There was no new business at this time.
7. Announcements from the Dean of the Graduate School, Kent Holsinger.
  - a. Dean Holsinger announced the passing of former Assistant Dean Victoria Blodgett (2014-2017).
8. There was a motion offered for adjournment, which was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.
9. The next regular meeting of the GFC is scheduled for January 27, 2021 via Webex.