**Graduate Council**

**Minutes**

**October 14, 2022**

The Graduate Council met by Zoom on Friday, October 14, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Members present: J. Black, J. Bowers-Campbell, D. Carnes, J. Deziel, D. Dorondo proxy A. Storm, N. Granda-Marulanda, H. Grappendorf, B. Karayaka, M. Kennedy, B. Kloeppel, T. Orr, H. Rimes, D. Solomon, A. Storm, A. Stuckey, C. Thomas, A. Trombley, and P. Yanik

Members absent: J. Carzoli, M. Kennedy, L. Hammer, C. Parrish, C. Perrine, M. Snyder, and E. Virtue

Others present: E. Frazier

**Approval of the Minutes** Motion and second to approve the minutes for the September 23, 2022 meeting. Passed.

**Program Updates**

Nursing reported on the proposed Master’s in Nursing degree program. The proposal is currently under review by the Faculty Senate Academic Policy and Review Committee (APRC). Hopefully, the proposal will pass Faculty Senate in September and be submitted to the UNC system for review in October. The program will admit students in the fall, spring, and summer terms.

Financial Aid provided an update on the new Catamount Commitment Program. The program starts with the class of 2023 in-state undergraduate students who are not transfer students, is an annual award based upon GPA and is over and above NC Promise. The Catamount Commitment Program is an eight-semester award for full-time students with a FAFSA and scholarship application on file.

**Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review**

The following persons were approved by the Graduate Faculty Review Committee as members of the graduate faculty and came as aseconded motion for approval and were approved.

Dr. Altheia Richardson Human Services Affiliate

Mr. Phil Cauley Human Services Affiliate

Dr. Sarah Lewis Psychology Affiliate

Approved.

**Policy Update for Previous Bad Grades GPA Reset Policy**

A draft of the Graduate GPA Reset Readmission Policy was distributed to the Graduate Council.

Graduate GPA Reset Readmission Policy Original Draft

A *program* may request that the Graduate School readmit a graduate student and reset the student’s GPA. GPA Reset Readmission permits students, who had **previously enrolled in a graduate program** at Western Carolina University and earned a GPA below a 3.00, to pursue a **graduate degree in another field** and have their cumulative GPA reset. The *program* requesting this readmission must be different from the one in which the student was originally enrolled. Students must complete the Graduate GPA Reset Readmission form and this must be approved by the new program’s Graduate Program Director *and* the Graduate School. This process will not remove the previous coursework from the WCU transcript, but it will allow the calculation of the graduate GPA to commence when they enroll in the new program. None of the coursework from the old program may be transferred or retained for the new program. Furthermore, this process requires a break in enrollment; the coursework for the prior program must have been completed **at least two years** prior to the term in which the student will re-enroll.

Discussion questions:

* + - * Does it have to be below a 3.0? Could a person request this because they had a low GPA 3.2?
      * Does it have to be a different program? What if student was in engineering—did poorly—wants to return with a blank slate?
      * How will students know this exists for them?
      * How hidden do you want the policy?
      * How does each program want to handle this?
      * Everyone or case by case basis?

Comments, Questions and Responses:

* + - * Was the intent of the policy to circumvent an “F” grade? No. It is a GPA reset policy.
      * Is the GPA reset for all students after two years? No. GPA reset would be by request.
      * Should a student have to wait two years to make a request? Discussion was to have students wait a period before allowing a request.
      * Should the six-year time limit be considered instead of the two years of stop out? Differing opinions regarding six years or two years. Support was split among members. A suggestion was made to use one year for a new program and two years for the same program.
      * Financial Aid would not reset GAP for satisfactory progress requirement and pays for only one repeat of a course.
      * Define “another field” in the policy. Much discussion of subcommittee whether to use “field” or “program.” Preference is for “program.”
      * One member did not agree that only graduate students readmitted to a different program be eligible for a GPA reset. Would consideration be given to a graduate students readmitted to the same program if the student had to stop out for a longer period? Supported by other members.
      * A question was asked about if this policy would apply to embedded programs for example the project management certificate embedded in the Sport Management degree program. It was agreed that this would be a “slippery slope.”
      * How many times can a student request a reset? Consensus was one time only.

**Curriculum Review**

There were no Curriculum items to review.

**Financial Assistance**

The Financial Assistance Committee had no additional information to report.

Dean Kloeppel reported a one-time $1500 2023 spring term stipend increase for 20 hour per week Graduate School funded assistantship. The funds for the 2023 spring term stipend increases come from uncontracted 2022 fall term assistantships.

**Dean Report**

**Proposed Increase in Graduate Tuition (please see attachment)**

The 2022-23 UNC System Graduate Tuition and Fees document was distributed to the Graduate Council.

The UNC will consider graduate tuition increases. The WCU Executive Committee is proposing a 3% tuition increase beginning in the 2023-24 academic year. Dean Kloeppel present the proposal to the University Tuition and Fees Committee. The $245,000 in revenue generated by the tuition increase can be used to increase assistantship funding and increase tuition remission funding.

If supported by the University Tuition and Fees Committee, the Chancellor and Executive Council will present the proposal to the Board of Trustees. If approved, the proposal will be reviewed by the Board of Governors. A final decision should be available by February 2023.

**Virtual Open House Update**

[Virtual Open House](https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/admissions/graduate-school-open-house.aspx?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIztLl2IXC-QIVeMiUCR17-w9IEAAYASAAEgJeBvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds) dates have been scheduled through August 2023 (please see link).

Starting in October, the Office of Global Engagement will have a representative at an Open House breakout session to assist international student prospects with their questions.

**UNC Asheville Proposed Graduate Programs**

The following article was shared with the Graduate Council. UNC Asheville is proposing four new graduate programs in engineering, public health, creative writing, and climate resilience.

<https://www.unca.edu/events-and-news/stories/nancy-j-cable-to-step-down-as-unc-asheville-chancellor/>

**UNC System Reinitiating Enrollment Projections**

Two UNC System Forecast documents were distributed to the Graduate Council. Dean Kloeppel reported the UNC System is reinstating the requirement to submit enrollment forecasts. The new funding model initially eliminated this requirement. The WCU Enrollment Committee will prepare an enrollment forecast to submit in November.

**Associate Dean Report**

**3MT Update**

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) event will be virtual to encourage increased participation by students. Registration closes on October 26th for the 3MT event. November 7th is the application due date for students to provide a video submission. The video submissions will be judged and the first place, second place and Peoples Choice awards will be announced at the November 17th watch party event at Innovation Station.

**Slate Updates**

Program Directors were sent an e-mail that the Faculty Portal is ready for Beta testing in Slate. Feedback has been positive.

**Thesis Resource Webpage and Workshops**

The [Thesis Resource Webpage](https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/students/Thesis-and-Disseration-Resources.aspx) and Workshops can be accessed using this link.

A Disquisition workshop was held on September 19th and a Thesis/Dissertation workshop was held on September 20th. Both workshops were very well attended.

The thesis/disquisition/dissertation fall term submission deadline is November 10th.

**Agenda**

**Status of Assistantship Meetings with Graduate Programs**

Dean Kloeppel reported meeting with eight of the sixteen graduate assistantship program directors. Each program reported different assistantship needs and strategies. Meetings will conclude by November 1st and a draft of the outcomes will be reported to Provost Starnes. Follow up discussions with the Deans will take place prior to allocations in December.

**Potential Proposals for Budget Requests**

The marketing budget targets five graduate programs each year for special funding.

**Future Agenda Topics**

Discussion regarding enrollment in a graduate degree program and a graduate certificate program at the same time.

Number of total credits an undergraduate student is allowed to take and apply to an Accelerated Bachelor’s to master’s program (ABM).

Allowing transfer credit from a previously earned graduate degree.

Discuss total transfer credit policy limits.

Discuss allowing “C” grade courses for transfer credit.

**Graduate Council Agenda Topics**

Please send Dean Kloeppel Graduate Council agenda topics for the 2022-23 academic year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

Please note: All attachments are on file in the Graduate School with the Graduate Council meeting minutes.