

**Graduate Council
Minutes
January 9, 2015**

The Graduate Council met Friday, January 9, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Dogwood Room of the University Center.

Members present: H. Buchanan, L. Bishop, K. Cooper-Duffy, T. Creasy, M. Fenton, B. Kloeppe, K. Mathews, E. McNelis, E. Myers, C. Parrish, S. Rajagopal, K. Starr, E. Tapley, M. Tanaka, and L. Unruh

Members absent: L. Comer, C. Cosner, M. Hollis, B. Lahm, D. Martinez, E. Nissly, T. Orr, and H. Thompson Rainey

Others present: E. Frazier

Announcements

Dean Fenton introduced two new Graduate Council members, Heidi Buchanan was appointed to replace Dana Sally as the Hunter Library representative, and Lauren Bishop is a new representative for the Sponsored Research Council.

Dean Fenton explained that the new representative for the Sponsored Research Council will form alliances, promote collaborations and encourage communication with the Graduate Council and graduate faculty.

Dean Fenton reminded the Graduate Council that the Faculty Scholarship Celebration will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2015.

Dean Fenton invited the Graduate Council members to attend **the 3rd GRADUATE EDUCATION SUMMIT: FINDING THE BALANCE: RIGOROUS CONTENT INSTRUCTION & RESEARCH VS. PREPARING FUTURE PROFESSION.** The Education Summit is scheduled for Thursday, February 12th in the Blue Ridge Conference Room from 12:30-2:30 and lunch will be provided. The agenda and registration information can be found at <http://www.wcu.edu/academics/wcu-graduate-school/GraduateEducationSummit.asp>.

The Graduate Research Symposium that will occur on Thursday, 26 March 2015. Please find an active link below that you will need to use to apply for the various presentations at the Symposium. The deadline for application is Thursday, 19 February 2015.

[Application Link](#)
[Symposium Link](#)

This year we will be offering four unique presentation formats:

- 1) Research oral presentation
- 2) Research poster presentation
- 3) Three Minute Thesis (3MT) presentation
- 4) Research paper competition

Students can apply to compete in any one, multiple, or all formats. All presentations (oral, poster, and 3MT) will occur at the University Center in Cullowhee.

Enrollment point in time this year to last year is down 5.5% (approximately 100 students).

Dean Fenton gave an update of the Graduate School budget requests. An additional \$100,000 was requested for graduate assistantships and was ranked as a #3 priority for operational funds. An additional \$220,000 was requested for graduate financial assistance and was ranked as a #11 medium priority for operational funds. The Graduate School staff position that was requested was ranked as a #7 priority.

Dean Fenton asked the Graduate Council members if they were interested in having another retreat this year at Lake Logan. The Graduate Council members agreed that they were interested in having another retreat in June.

Program updates:

The MBA program reported that they graduated 30 students in December and admitted 15 new students for the 2015 spring term. The MBA program will soon be offering full-time paid internships with regional businesses to work on intellectual property rights. The Global Gaming Business magazine includes Joshua Vaught, an MBA graduate and the Director of Operations at Harrah's Casino, among its "40 under 40."

The Math program reported that 1 student graduated in December and accepted a full-time teaching position at Southwestern Community College. Three more students will be graduating in May. Regional conference presentations are scheduled.

The DPT program reported that the program is fully reaccredited for ten years. Interviews with 120 applicants were completed in December. DPT faculty investigating clinical opportunities returned from Honduras, Belize and Bolivia.

The Special Education program reported they have new admits for the 2015 spring term.

The Psychology program reported a February 1 application deadline.

The Technology program reported eight Cullowhee campus students will graduate in May and one Biltmore Park student will graduate in May. Three students were admitted for the 2015 spring term.

The Biology program reported six students were admitted for the 2015 spring term which is the largest mid-term class ever admitted. Three to four students graduated in December.

Graduate School reported that the SOCON (Southern Conference) has realigned public and private universities. Last week Associate Dean Kloeppe attended the first ever SOCON academic officers meeting with three other WCU representatives- Associate Provost Brandon Schwab, College of Business Dean Darrell Parker, International Programs Director Ling LeBeau.

Hunter Library reported that the search has begun for a new Dean of the library. Becky Kornegay will be the Interim Dean of Hunter Library in the meantime. Hunter Library in conjunction with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) completed a graduate student survey concerning library services. A great deal of feedback was received and survey results will be published soon.

Project Management reported 5-6 December graduates. There is discussion about offering an interdisciplinary Sport Management MPM program in the fall term. The MPM program is under curriculum redesign.

The Sponsored Research Council reported that the standard operating procedures are currently under review and revision. The Cost/Share policy is being updated. A task force will be reviewing the monitoring and reporting of indirect in order to enhance the university's ability to get external funds. The Sponsored Research Council representative has been invited to disperse sponsored research information to the Graduate Council and will receive information about graduate education in return.

Staff Senate met yesterday to discuss the agenda for the year.

Undergraduate admissions is getting caught up after the two week break.

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes for the October 10, 2014 meeting. Motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review

There were no graduate faculty nominations submitted for review by the Graduate Faculty Review Committee.

Two policies are still under review by the committee 1) the "enrollment in the term of graduation" policy and 2) the "Graduate Faculty Status" policy.

The committee has been meeting to discuss the graduate faculty criteria, categories, selection process and nomination procedures.

Curriculum Review

The following curriculum items were reviewed by the Curriculum Committee and came as a seconded motion for approval.

New Course Proposals:

- ACCT 630 Taxation of Flow-through Entities
- ACCT 635 Governmental and Nonprofit Accounting

Program Changes (with brief description of change provided in Curriculog):

- M.A.Ed. Education Supervision

Eliminate the Curriculum-Instruction and Instructional Technology Specialist concentrations. Also, revise the program description to reflect the removal of these concentrations. [Note: this proposal was initiated over summer 2014 and is now being entered on behalf of the department as it has been part-way through the old AA6 process]

Noted proposal was launched AFTER edits were made to the imported data] – Thus, to understand changes, you'll want to look at the current catalog view in a web browser and compare.

- M.A. English

The Department of English has voted to make the GRE optional. Catalog copy should now read (and this change also corrects a typo):

Program Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate School Admission Requirements, applicants must have achieved an average grade of B or higher in upper-level undergraduate courses in the major. A writing sample and two recommendations addressing the applicant's aptitude for graduate study are required, and the GRE General Test (gre.org) is optional.

- M. Ed. Higher Education Student Affairs

The change is required to stay current within the field of higher education and student affairs.

We are requesting a program name change as a result of College Student Personnel being an outdated term. When students search for programs in this field of study, they seek Higher Education Student Affairs. Per our recruitment personnel in the Graduate School, this has also been an issue throughout her travels.

In addition, College ought to be changed to Higher Education as the word college in an international context means secondary education. Additionally, it limits the scope of our students whereas, Higher Education is inclusive of all institutional types (community colleges, colleges, universities etc.).

Also, Student Personnel ought to be changed to Student Affairs. The word personnel is outdated and does not clearly explain the work that students in our program aspire to do (Schuh, Jones, Harper, and Associates, 2011). Entities at higher education institutions "that have staff dedicated to the growth and development of students outside of the formal curriculum" are commonly referred to as Student Affairs - WCU included (Schuh, Jones, Harper, and Associates, 2011, p. xi).

- Master of Accountancy

The graduate catalog wording on admissions needs to be changed to reflect current practice of requiring submission of a resume during the application process.

- M.P.M. Project Management Degree Program

The change would allow students with substantial project management experience and internationally recognized professional certification(s) to take a 30 hour program.

- M.S. Technology

Updating program description, professional skills, and the list of courses in the core and applied electives.

Financial Support for Student Excellence

The committee needs to finalize weighting criteria factors for the graduate assistantship allocation model. Weighting factors will be small to begin with so as not to skew the model. Weighting criteria for the CLIMB and the GA evaluations still need to be determined.

Graduate Fellowship funds and Study Grant funds will be combined in order to offer \$4000 and \$2000 tuition awards for full-time and part-time residential graduate students. The selection process will require an application, the awards will be competitive and an external selection will determine the awards. The application process for these awards will be announced soon.

Discussions are underway with Educational Outreach regarding tuition awards for distance students.

In-state tuition remissions will also be converted into tuition awards.

Planning

The Planning Committee met to plan the Education Summit scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2015.

The Alumni Advisory Board is still under discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

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