

**Graduate Council
Minutes
March 8, 2013**

The Graduate Council met Friday, March 8, 2013 at 1:00 pm in the Dogwood Room of the University Center.

Members present: S. Alspaw, L. Comer, K. Cooper-Duffy, T. Creasy, M. Fenton, K. Topolka-Jorissen, K. Lunnen, A. Malesky, E. McNelis, P. Robertson, D. Russell, S. Swanger, M. Tanaka and L. Wright

Members absent: G. Graham, B. Kloeppe, S. Ha, C. Reitz, D. Sally, and A. Voelker

Others present: R. Stiles, M. Boles

Announcement

A Graduate Education Summit was held on March 5: "Pathways Through Graduate School into Professions and Careers." The summit was a collaborative event sponsored with the Graduate Student Association, Career Services, and Coulter Faculty Commons. The keynote speaker was Dr. Maureen Grasso, Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Georgia. Dr. Maureen Grasso served on the Council of Graduate School Commission who is responsible for "Pathways" report. The presentation was followed by an interactive workshop for graduate faculty regarding incorporating professional skills into an academically rigorous curriculum. The interactive student workshop scheduled for the following day was cancelled due to adverse weather and will be rescheduled.

The Graduate Research Symposium is scheduled for Thursday, March 21. Presentations will be scheduled from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm in the University Center. The Graduate School awards reception will begin at 5:00 pm. Eighty-five students submitted abstracts for presentation and fourteen students' submitted papers for the paper competition.

Travel stipends funded by the Graduate Student Association are still available to graduate students. Information about how to apply for a travel stipend can be found at <http://www.wcu.edu/6445.asp>.

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2013 meeting. Motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review

No Graduate Faculty nominations were submitted for review.

The proposed changes to the "Categories of Admission" policy passed by the Graduate Council at the February meeting will be submitted to the Academic Policy and Review Committee for discussion at their March 13 meeting.

Curriculum Review

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

AA-6

MS Human Resources

To comply with Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) HR Curriculum Guidelines for required content areas, we want to change HR 601 (Organization Planning & Execution for HR Professionals) from an elective to a required course. We do not believe that the content covered in HR 601 (required by SHRM HR Curriculum Guidelines) is covered in any module of any other required course in the program. It is important to maintain our officially recognized alignment with SHRM for marketing and credibility purposes within the professional HR community from which most of our students come.

MAED Special Education

To waive the GRE requirement for SPED MAED program, gifted concentration, for those students earning a GPA of 4.0 in the 12-hour AIG graduate licensure program. By completing the 4 graduate courses of the AIG licensure program with a 4.0 GPA, students have demonstrated that they can be successful in graduate school.

MBA Program

We are deleting the completion options because the 36-hour program has no electives, so it's unlikely that the students would opt for a concentration.

MAcc Program

Currently, the required prerequisites include three semester hours of intermediate accounting (typically, this is a course called Intermediate Accounting 1). We propose to increase that requirement to six hours, thereby requiring incoming students to have completed a second Intermediate Accounting course. The additional course as program prerequisite will better prepare students for the highly complex and advanced concepts, skills and issues addressed in the graduate program.

To add Intermediate Accounting 2 as a prerequisite course for admission to the MAcc program (AA-6). We are currently the only school in the UNC system, plus Clemson & SC, that does not require this course for admission. More than 60% of our students have undergraduate degrees in accounting and would not be affected by this change. It is only those with non-ACCT undergraduate degrees that would be affected.

Community and Mental Health Counseling Program

Update curricular requirement currently COUN 670 to COUN 670 or EDRS 602; both are courses in research methods; having the option increases flexibility for students' schedules.

School Counseling Program

Update curricular requirement currently COUN 670 to COUN 670 or EDRS 602; both are courses in research methods; having the option increases flexibility for students' schedules.

MAED Math

Add Math 514 as a course offering for the M.A.Ed. Comprehensive Education – Mathematics program, which could be taken as an alternative to the current Math 610 requirement. Develop a 4+1 option for our B.S.Ed. undergraduate students to take between 2 and 4 graduate math courses while completing their B.S.Ed. program, then finish their M.A.Ed. program. The key feature of the program is that students will be able to take up to 12 hours of graduate level courses satisfying requirements for the B.S.Ed. as advanced placement towards the M.A.Ed. in Comprehensive Education. In order to create a 4+1 B.S.Ed./M.A.Ed. option and make sure students can complete the graduate part of the program within 2 years post-graduation, 4+1 students will be allowed to take Math 514 and substitute this for the Math 610 required in the M.A.Ed. program, and Math 414 required in the B.S.Ed. program. Math 514 will involve a research-focused project on the teaching of mathematics with technology.

AA-5

COUN 693 Topics in Counseling (3, R6)

MATH 514 Introduction to Secondary Mathematics Teaching Methods (3)

BA 500 Career Pathways: Enhancing Professional Skills for Graduate Students (0), COUN 619 Nature as a Metaphor (3) and COUN 672 Positive Psychotherapy in Integrated Care (3) were not approved as submitted. Additional information has been requested by the Curriculum Committee.

Student Financial Assistance

The submission deadline for the Graduate Fellowship nominees was March 4, 2013.

Information about the application process to request funding for summer graduate research assistants was e-mailed on February 18, 2013.

The committee began reviewing the process for allocating graduate assistantships with the goal of making the process more data driven. Proposed changes to the graduate assistantship and remission allocation process made by the committee will be presented to the Graduate Council for review, discussion and approval.

Graduate Education Advancement Committee

The committee reported on the formation of an Alumni Advisory Board. An alumni event has been scheduled on April 11 from 5:30-7:30 at Biltmore Park. Graduate Council will receive a report on attendance in case their alumni attend.

The committee reported on the Program Director survey results. Thirty-six out of approximately forty-three program directors were surveyed. After the survey results were reviewed, the decision about who to and how to disseminate the results was discussed. A decision was made to disseminate the results to the Council of Deans, department heads and the program directors.

The Graduate Council recommended that the results be used to create a standard program director job description aligned with the size of each program. The job description should include the philosophy, objectives and tasks of the program director based upon input from the program directors. The Graduate Council believes program directors need to be involved in the conversation regarding the philosophy, objectives and tasks included in the job description.

Agenda Items

The Graduate School budget request power point presentation that was presented to the Council of Deans was shown to the Graduate Council.

Future Agenda Items

Graduate Council members were encouraged to submit announcements and to provide feedback on how to make Graduate Council meetings more efficient.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

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