

**Graduate Council
Minutes
February 12, 2021**

The Graduate Council met on Friday, February 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm via ZOOM.

Members present: J. Bowers-Campbell, J. Campbell, D. Carnes, J. Carzoli, M. Claxton, B. Gehrig, L. Hammer, Y. Hillon, D. Hudson (J. Carzoli proxy), B. Kloeppe, R. Laboray, E. McCoy, T. Orr, A. Perry, S. Rader, F. Razzaghi, H. Rimes, M. Snyder, A. Storm, A. Stuckey, Y. Yan and P. Yanik

Members absent: C. Parrish

Others present: E. Frazier

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

Program Updates

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) announced the application for GSA executive board positions is now available on the GSA website. The GSA president attended the UNCASG state level leadership meeting. At the next UNCASG meeting, graduate students are encouraged to submit white papers to provide graduate student input to the UNCASG. GSA has awarded a total of 19 travel fund awards from a \$30,000 budget for 2020-21 academic year. For the 2021 spring term, the GSA will be taking applications for Professional Development and Research reimbursement awards. The application will become available on the GSA website February 15th. A selection rubric has been developed to score the applications.

The Master of Science in Technology program has submitted a name change to the Master of Science in Engineering and Technology program. The name change requires a new program code. The program wants the name change to be in effect beginning in the 2021 fall term.

Graduate School is considering Open House delivery mode options.

The Registrar's Office will be performing degree audit checks after curriculum changes are approved.

The School of Teaching and Learning is discussing ideas to memorialize a Special Education graduate student who passed away in the 2020 fall term.

The Higher Education Student Affairs program is experiencing recruiting challenges for the 2021 fall term. The program is residential, and the application deadline is March 1st.

The College of Business reported that changing to a hybrid model of instruction increased applications and enrollment this year.

The Financial Aid Office announced 2021 Fall and Summer term awarding will begin March 1st. Scholarship applications for graduate students are still open on the Scholarship website at <https://www.wcu.edu/apply/scholarships/>. The application for Higher Education relief funds for emergency needs will become available later in the 2021 spring term.

Academic Policy and Graduate Faculty Review

No Graduate Faculty nominations were submitted for review to the Graduate Faculty Review Committee.

Curriculum Review

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

Accountancy (M.Acc.)

Catalog change. This is a technical correction to the catalog to achieve consistency in how the courses are listed that are used to determine an applicant's eligibility for the GMAT waiver. Those courses should be consistently described by their generic titles rather than the ACCT XXX system used by WCU.

Approved.

ACCT 660 – International Accounting

New elective course proposal. An overview of international business and international accounting. Comparisons of domestic and international business models, financial reporting frameworks, government, and taxation. May include a travel component.

Approved.

SM 676 – Strategic Communication in Sport

New required course proposal. This course will provide for an in-depth examination of the areas of sport communication at both the micro and macro levels. There will be an emphasis on industry and current trends. A historical analysis, evolution and convergence of traditional and new media, including social media will be covered. Additional topics that will be examined include crisis communication, public relations, the use of data analytics and marketing in sport communication, meeting sport fan and consumer needs, legal concerns, and the impact of sociocultural issues in the media.

Approved.

Sport Management (M.S.)

Change in program requirements. The Sport Management graduate faculty determined that the content from SM 676 Strategic Sport Communication (proposed new course) would better serve our students than SM 672 Sport in the Global Marketplace (current course). The innovation in the area of sport media and communication has changed the way sport does business. Due to the growth and advancement in the area of sport media and communication, it is essential our students are aware of and can utilize the latest best practices in the field.

Approved.

Dean Kloeppe requested a volunteer to be the Curriculum Committee Chair elect. Ron Laboray agreed to be Curriculum Committee Chair elect.

If approved by the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council will have two representatives on the University Curriculum Committee. The Curriculum committee Chair and Chair Elect will serve as representatives on the University Curriculum Committee.

Financial Assistance

No update from the Chair of the Financial Assistance Committee.

The Financial Assistance Committee will review the applications submitted for Graduate School funded summer research assistantships.

Dean Report

Spring 2021 Census Enrollment Update

Dean Kloeppe reported on the graduate enrollment census report for the Spring 2021 term distributed to the Graduate Council. Census occurred on Friday 05 February 2021.

Spring term 2021 graduate student census enrollment is 1697 which is an increase of 37 students over Spring term 2020. SCHs for Spring term 2021 are 14,096 up 630 credit hours over last year.

Slate Software Installation Update

As of February 1st, 58 program applications are open in Slate, and 18 applications are opening between February 15th to September 15th.

The Associate Dean is scheduling Slate training every two weeks. A training handout is also available.

Graduate School is working on how to move applications through the review bins in Slate the way the graduate programs want to review the applications for program admission.

Associate Dean Report

Graduate Research Symposium

The virtual 2021 Graduate Research Symposium is scheduled during the week of the virtual Research and Scholarship Conference March 22-26. The 2021 Graduate Research Symposium website is not available yet, but students can register by February 11 to present their research, participate in the poster presentation or submit a research paper.

Registration closed February 11, 2021. Seventy-seven students registered for the 2021 Graduate Research Symposium.

Graduate School will need volunteers to be paper judges and oral presentation monitors and participants.

The virtual research poster presentation will include three minutes of narration. The oral presentation videos will include faculty follow up and a live roundtable discussion via Zoom with students. Registration will be required for these sessions. The upload period for the poster presentations and the oral presentations is February 12 to March 5.

All Graduate Research Symposium activities will launch from the website.

Language Proficiency Discussion

Graduate Council was asked to consider and discuss adding Duolingo as an admissions test for language proficiency. A document was presented to the Graduate Council comparing language proficiency tests and test score cutoffs at other UNC system universities.

The addition of Duolingo as a test option could help international students who may have difficulty accessing the TOEFEL or IELTS test for language proficiency. Duolingo is suggested as an alternative since the test is less expensive test option and is administered on-line.

Feedback from the Graduate Council included questions about test security, and the availability of the Duolingo test in all countries.

Agenda

Summer Research Assistantships

The summer assistantship application will become available mid-February. Funding for summer assistantships varies from year to year so the stipend and number of assistantships cannot be determined prior to the application period. The summer assistantship employment period is May 17 to June 30, 2021.

Dean Kloeppe announced the Provost approved summer assistantship advisor/mentors to receive a \$500 stipend paid from Graduate School assistantship funds. The summer research assistants funded by the Graduate School will receive a minimum stipend of \$3000. The 2021 summer research assistantship pilot program will be assessed based upon the number of applications received and the quality of the applications.

A change to the summer research assistantship application will allow the advisor/mentor to approve the proposed summer research assistantship project as part of the application process. A summer research assistantship application cannot be submitted by a student without advisor/mentor approval.

Term by Term Enrollments and Completions

Dean Kloeppe presented a draft of Term by Term Enrollments and Completions data from the Office of Institutional Planning and Engagement. The graduate retention data has not been validated yet.

Graduate School will be reaching out to graduate students who completed at least 9 graduate credit hours and did not graduate. Students will be offered information and assistance if they are interested in reenrolling in a graduate program.

Graduate Council Agenda Topics

Please send Dean Kloeppe Graduate Council agenda topics for the 2020-21 academic year.

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.

