

**Graduate Council  
Minutes  
March 12, 2021**

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

Members present: J. Campbell, D. Carnes, J. Carzoli, M. Claxton, B. Gehrig, D. Hudson, B. Kloeppel, R. Laboray, E. McCoy, T. Orr, C. Parrish, A. Perry, S. Rader, H. Rimes, M. Snyder, A. Storm, A. Stuckey, and P. Yanik

Members absent: J. Bowers-Campbell, L. Hammer, F. Razzaghi, Y. Yan, Y. Hillon

Others present: E. Frazier, AJ Grube, J. Marvel, M. Garrido, J. Ray, H. Jack, M. Murphy, W. Milner, B. Schwab

**Approval of the Minutes** Motion and second to approve the minutes for the February 12, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

**Program Updates**

Recognition of members completing their term on the Graduate Council

- Bruce Gehrig, College of Engineering and Technology
- April Perry, College of Education and Allied Professions
- Scott Rader, College of Business

To share Molecules in the Mountains - April 16th. Registration and Abstracts due April 2nd.  
<https://moleculesinthemountains2021.weebly.com/>

**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 a seconded motion for approval and were approved.

Dr. David Blattner	Human Services	Affiliate
Dr. Brad Faircloth	Human Services	Affiliate

Approved.

**Graduate Catalog Policy Proposal to add Duolingo as a Language Proficiency Test: Wes Milner, International Programs and Services**

The Dean of Graduate School, the Director of the International Studies, and several programs across campus have asked the Graduate Council to consider allowing international applicants to be considered for admission using the Duolingo English Test to assess language proficiency. This request comes as many of the countries impacted by COVID 19 have closed traditional testing centers. In addition, Duolingo offers testing at a greatly reduced price.

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.

Graduate Council members raised concerns about the Duolingo English Test rigor and security.

Proposed Graduate Catalog policy:

### **Tests of Language Proficiency**

Official scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the academic version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Duolingo English Test are required for applicants from countries where English is not the primary language (scores cannot be more than 2 years old). A minimum score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (Internet-based) is required on the TOEFL. A minimum overall band score of 6.5 is required on IELTS, with a minimum band score of 6 on each of the four modules.

To be admitted, a minimum score of 105 will be required. In addition to providing a score at or above the minimum, the Graduate School or graduate programs may choose to require students to participate in a Zoom or Skype interview prior to making an admission decision.

A TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo is not required for applicants who

- Are from countries where English is the SOLE OFFICIAL language of instruction (Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada-except Quebec, England, Ghana, Ireland, India, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Scotland, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, Trinidad, Tobago, Uganda, and Wales)
- Have received or will receive a degree from an accredited university in the United States. If you are currently enrolled at a US institution, you must submit an official transcript and verification of degree candidate status from that institution to qualify for a standardized test exemption.
- Have received or will receive a degree from an accredited university where English is the SOLE language of instruction. If you are a degree candidate in a university where English is the SOLE language of instruction, you must submit an official verification from that English is the SOLE language of instruction along with your anticipated date of graduation to qualify for a testing exemption.
- Have successfully completed WCU's [Intensive English Program \(IEP\)](#).

Passed.

### **Curriculum Review**

#### **Master of Sport Management draft MOU with North Carolina Central University Law School (AJ Grube)**

Graduate Council was asked to review and vote on the Master of Sport Management draft MOU with North Carolina Central University Law School.

Dr. AJ Grube, Dean of the College of Business, presented the draft MOU to the Graduate Council.

Western Carolina University and North Carolina Central University's School of Law seek to establish a dual degree program with respect to the Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree offered by the School of Law at North Carolina Central University and the Master of Science (M.S.) in Sport Management degree offered by the College of Business at Western Carolina University.

Graduate Council was asked to review and approve the draft MOU because the agreement includes an exception to the current Graduate Catalog transfer of credit policy.

The Graduate Council approved the draft MOU with the transfer of credit exception with the understanding that further edits to the MOU may be forthcoming.

After the MOU receives final approval, the exception to the Graduate Catalog transfer credit policy for this collaborative program will be submitted through Curriculog to update the Graduate Catalog.

## **Master of Engineering collaborative program proposal**

Dr. Jeff Ray, Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, presented the “New Academic Degree Program Request to Establish” form for an M.S in Engineering program to the Graduate Council for review and support. The curriculum was developed in collaboration with the MBA program.

The Graduate Council voted to support the request to establish the M.S in Engineering program.

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

### **BIOL 579 – Mammalogy**

New elective course: Anatomy, physiology, ecology, behavior, diversity, evolution, and conservation of mammals. Lab will focus on identification of mammals through skin/skull specimens and photo, field research techniques, and behavior. Field trips required. (Cross-listed as BIOL479, NRM479). Course material and objectives (literature review, synthesis of data, presentation of analysis) have been added to raise the course to the graduate level.

Approved.

### **CHEM 573 – Quantum Chemistry and Spectroscopy Laboratory**

New required course: The undergraduate version of the course (CHEM 473) is extended to include graduate level work to accommodate ABM Chemistry and MS Chemistry students. Students are required to conduct a study comparing results obtained in class to their thesis research or results from literature.

Approved.

### **Chemistry (M.S.)**

1. Requirements change: The requirements for the Comprehensive Concentration previously includes 9 hour core taken from across 3 areas of chemistry. This is reduced to 6 hours from each of two areas. The remaining hours are made up through electives in any of 5 areas of chemistry. This change serves to add flexibility to the curriculum where not all areas had been feasibly accessible to students in a timely manner. This aligns with other programs in the region.
2. New elective course: CHEM 573 (above).
3. Requirements Change: Professional Science Concentration: Restrictions added to limit the 15 hours of science core to exclude Research, Seminar, Internship and Thesis. These had been missing from the catalog.

Approved.

### **Communication Sciences and Disorders (M.S.)**

1. New program requirement. The program adds existing course CSD622 – Cognitive Communication Disorders to meet best practices and accreditation recommendations. This course has previously been offered as CSD594.
2. Prerequisite removed. CSD470 is removed from program prerequisites due to lack of relevance.

Approved.

### **Education – Comprehensive Education (M.A.Ed.)**

1. Course name changes (ELMG 609, 697 to Teacher Research in K-9 Classroom I, II)

2. Track name changed from Gifted, Creative and Innovative Education (AIG) to Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG).
3. Concentrations in biology, middle grades math hidden in catalog.
4. Added language to clarify licensure areas.

Approved.

#### **Education – Comprehensive Education (M.A.T.)**

1. Move English and Art specializations to be fully online.
2. Hide Social Sciences concentration in catalog.
3. Remove GRE requirement.
4. Adds courses ART 677 and ART 679

Approved.

#### **ART 677 – Studio Art Praxes**

This course replaces what was ART593 in which MAT students attended the highest 400 level studio course in one of our seven offered areas of emphasis. This course will now be taught online and the program coordinator will be the instructor so that students have consistency in communication and guidance per how to do a studio course online.

Approved.

#### **ART 679 – Global Art and Education**

This course takes the place of what was formerly an ART593 --or random selection of art history courses for the MAT student. With this course I can better control the curricula to focus on global art and the profession of art teaching throughout the world. Both will make students more well rounded and help them in passing the Praxis 2 exit exam.

Approved.

#### **Educational Supervision (M.A.E.D)**

Change in catalog description: The catalog currently describes a 36-hour degree. The degree has previously been reduced to 30 hours, but wording in the catalog had not been changed.

Approved.

#### **Innovation in Leadership and Entrepreneurship (M.E.)**

Clarifies degree name and updates concentration title. “Master of Entrepreneurship Program in Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ILE)”

Approved.

#### **Innovation Management (Graduate Certificate)**

Program being inactivated.

Approved.

#### **Business Administration (M.B.A)**

Minor wording changes to program description.

Approved.

#### **Addiction Studies Certificate Program (Post Baccalaureate Certificate)**

Program update due to course name/description changes. The current certificate title, certificate

course titles (for SOCW 522 and SOCW 524) and course descriptions for SOCW 520, SOCW 522, SOCW 524, and SOCW 525 reflect language that is now considered inaccurate and stigmatizing. Supporting changes have been approved through direct routing to the Graduate School.

Approved.

**Social Work (M.S.W.)**

This program change accompanies the program update to the Addiction Studies Certificate above.

Approved.

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) – Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration**

All courses in the MS(N) family program are transitioning to doctoral (DNP) per national standards. The curriculum has been previously approved.

Reduction in hours (86 to 83) to better match similar programs. The reduction comes from decreasing the project course hours requirement from 9 to 6.

NSG 916 – Scholarly Project is added as a repeatable course common with DNP-NA

Approved.

**NSG 916 – DNP Scholarly Project**

This is a repeatable course that replaces the current 5-course progressive project sequence for the DNP degree. It allows students who progress at different rates to complete the project without being governed by the firm outcomes required of each course in the existing sequence under the guidance of a project chair.

Approved.

**NSG 917 – DNP Project and Practicum**

This is a repeatable course that replaces the 5-course project/practicum sequence that is part of the MSN-DNP curriculum in which students complete a scholarly project during their practicums. The DNP Scholarly Project requires students to demonstrate expert practice, the use of evidence-based practice, translational research, and use of skills necessary to lead interdisciplinary teams to improve patient/client outcomes and health status individually, organizationally, or within a community.

Approved.

**Nursing (D.N.P.) Doctor in Nursing Practice**

Changes precipitate from closure of the post-Master's DNP program offered jointly with UNCC. No more students will be admitted to that program. The following DNP program changes are proposed following the program's conclusion.

1. Reduction of program hours from 42 to 34 to facilitate competitiveness with similar programs and offer less repetition and unneeded electives.
  - Remove one 3-hour elective.
  - Remove two 3-hour courses to eliminate duplicated content.
  - Add a 1-hour required (existing) course in academic writing (NURS 801).
2. Improve efficiency by combining post-Master's DNP with Nurse Anesthesia and Family Nurse Practitioner programs.
3. Replace progressive project courses with repeatable NSG 917.
4. Decrease the number of required project courses from 4 to 3 with the total project/clinical residency hours remaining at 9.

Approved.

### **Nursing (D.N.P.) Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia Concentration**

1. NSG 916 – DNP Scholarly Project will replace a 5-course progressive sequence as described above.
2. Change course name NSG 901 from Clinical Anesthesia Practicum I to Clinical Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar I
3. Change course name NSG 907 from Clinical Anesthesia Practicum/Seminar VII to Clinical Anesthesia Practicum.
4. Clarification of graduation requirements to specify use of national exam (instead of in-house exam), completion of clinical hours, and dissemination of project results.

Approved.

### **Experiential and Outdoor Education (M.S)**

Renaming to allow alphabetical appearance in Graduate Catalog.

Approved.

### **Mentoring Dr. Ron Laboray as Curriculum Chair for 2021-2022**

Dr. Ron Laboray has agreed to act as the Curriculum Committee Chair for the 2021-22 academic year with the help of the current Curriculum Committee Chair Dr. Paul Yanik. Dr. Laboray will also serve as the second Graduate Council representative on the University Curriculum Committee. Dr. Yanik will also continue to represent the Graduate Council 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.

- Summer Assistantships: minimum \$3,000 to students, \$500 to advisors
- Applications due Tuesday, 16 March 2021
- Schedule to distribute applications for review to Financial Assistance Committee Members by Friday, 19 March, at the latest
- Reviews due by Monday, 29 March
- Decisions to applicants by Thursday, 01 April

The summer assistantship application became available on February 24, 2021. 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 Report**

#### **Slate Software Installation Update**

As of March 12, 68 program applications are open in Slate.

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 participant and moderator summary

The virtual 2021 Graduate Research Symposium is scheduled during the week of the virtual Research and Scholarship Conference March 22-26.

The submission deadline for registrants was March 5, 2021.

#### **Academic Paper Competition**

19 total registrations

13 submissions – 10 Literature Reviews | 3 Research Papers.

#### **Posters**

20 Registrations

14 submissions

#### **Oral Presentations**

36 Registrations

26 submissions

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.

All Graduate Research Symposium activities will launch from the website [Graduate Research Symposium](#). The awards ceremony will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

## Agenda

### **Graduate Faculty Status discussion regarding Thesis Committee Member Roles**

- Case Studies:
- [Ed.D. Educational Leadership](#)

The Disquisition Committee requires two faculty members with Graduate Faculty Status and one member with professional expertise which requires submission of the nomination form for affiliate Graduate Faculty status. All committee members are

- [M.S. Experiential Outdoor Education](#)

The EOE program asked if a Thesis Committee could have two voting faculty members with Graduate Faculty Status and a non-voting member with professional expertise.

Dean Kloepfel asked for feedback about committee membership from the Graduate Council. The recommendation was to form a committee with three voting members.

### **Graduate Council Agenda Topics**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

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