

Graduate Council
Minutes
September 23, 2022

The Graduate Council met by Zoom on Friday, September 23, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

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

Members absent: C. Parrish, C. Perrine, M. Snyder, A. Stuckey, C. Thomas and E. Virtue

Others present: E. Frazier, L. Anderson and T.Metz

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes for the August 19, 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 nominated for Affiliate Graduate Faculty Status but were not reviewed and approved by the Graduate Faculty Review Committee. The nominations were tabled for review by the Graduate Faculty Review Committee.

Mr. Timothy Anderson Human Services Affiliate

Policy Update for Previous Bad Grades GPA Reset Policy

Policy proposals will be drafted and reviewed by the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee will present a proposal and findings to the Graduate Council at the October meeting.

Curriculum Review


There were no Curriculum items to review.

Financial Assistance

Assistantship Comparison Data

The Financial Assistance committee was asked to collect and present data and recommendations on updating stipend amounts for discussion to the Graduate Council.

Part of the data that would be helpful in presenting recommendations is knowing the cost of attendance and living that our graduate students need to pay in each program. Financial Aid Trina has good information to contribute. Additionally, knowing how graduate students are compensated in peer and aspirational institutions shows how we compare against typical compensation in the different programs.

A shared spreadsheet was created (link here  [Graduate Assistantship Allocation - 16 December 2020.xlsx](#)) with a tab for each College. The columns are labeled based on some pieces of information that we mentioned would be informative in making a recommendation including typical stipend amount, % of students in program on a stipend, % or number of students with tuition remissions and any other relevant information.

A written summary of the College of Arts and Sciences outcomes was distributed to the Graduate Council. There is a great deal of variance in the responses; however, WCU stipends are on the low side. Other institutions offer more tuition remissions and waivers than WCU. Tuition remissions and waivers are more impactful than stipends.

The College of Business reported similar results to Arts and Sciences. Tuition remissions and waivers are more impactful than stipends. Some institutions offer doctoral stipends but not master's level stipends. North Carolina is the worst when calculating the percentage of a stipend goes to pay rent so subsidized graduate student housing would be a valuable benefit.

The College of Education and Allied Professions committee member did not attend the meeting but, updated the spreadsheet and added a HESA document. The HESA program is not interested in decreasing the number of assistantships currently allocated.

The School of Engineering and Technology committee member reported UNC Charlotte pays a \$16,000 stipend for all programs. In-state remissions are awarded, but out-of-state remissions are rare. A "Grader" position pays \$20 per hour. Some institutions pay for health insurance. East Carolina University (ECU) pays residential Construction Management GAs \$12,000 for the academic year and \$3,000 for the summer term. ECU also awards tuition remission scholarships and fellowships.

The School of Engineering and Technology committee member also reported on behalf of the MFA program director Tom Ashcraft. UNC Greensboro pays an \$11,000 academic year stipend to all graduate assistants (five in-state and five out-of-state). Scholarship awards of \$1,000 are available and endowment funds pay for additional awards. UNC Chapel Hill and ECU both pay a \$12,000 stipend for GTAs and a \$10,000 stipend for GAs. UNC Chapel Hill also provides a tuition remission.

Health and Human Sciences reported information is sparse. Not many institutions responded. No set number of assistantships were reported, and some reported that assistantships depended upon available funding. More scholarships and tuition remissions are offered in lieu of assistantships. At UNC Chapel Hill the Nursing program has paid externships. DPT updates are on the spreadsheet.

Dean Kloeppe reported that he will be meeting with assistantship programs individually through November 1st to discuss assistantship allocations and stipends. Dewan Kloeppe also updated the Graduate Council that surplus assistantship funds were available to increase assistantship stipends for the 2023 spring term.

Dean Report

Virtual Open House Update

[Virtual Open House](#) 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.

Associate Dean Report

3MT Update

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) event will be virtual to encourage increased participation by students. The application will open on September 28th, and November 7th is the 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.

Thesis Resource Webpage and Workshops

The [Thesis Resource Webpage](#) 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.

Agenda

SACSCOC Graduate Student Achievement Metrics

A SACSCOC Graduate Student Achievement Metrics handout was distributed to the Graduate Council. The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIPE) is currently working on an updated version of the Student Achievement dashboard – a compliance item for SACSCOC. Also, the final draft phase of the SACSCOC 5th year report begins this week.

Dr. Tim Metz shared with the Graduate Council that OIPE needs guidance on setting minimum thresholds for graduate student achievement and discussed this might be an item of business to put in front of the Graduate Council. OIPE is also open to other ways to establish the required threshold of achievement. The established thresholds will be reviewed annually.

The graduate student achievement metrics identified are course completion rate and graduation rate.

After discussion by the Graduate Council the thresholds for these metrics were determined as a 95% graduate course completion rate, a 75% graduation rate for master's level and an 85% graduation rate for doctoral level. A rationale for the established thresholds for these metrics will also need to be devised.

Goals will need to be established in the future when more data becomes available.

Dr. Metz will edit Table 8.1.1 in the SACSCOC Graduate Student Achievement Metrics handout to include both part-time and full-time graduate students.

The SACSCOC Graduate Student Achievement Metrics need to be determined by the end of October at the latest.

OIPE update the graduate achievement dashboard information in Catalytics.

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 2:50 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

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