

**Graduate Council
Minutes
November 11, 2022**

The Graduate Council met by Zoom on Friday, November 11, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Members present: J. Black, J. Bowers-Campbell, D. Carnes, J. Carzoli, D. Dorondo, N. Granda-Marulanda, H. Grappendorf, L. Hammer, B. Karayaka, B. Kloepfel, H. Rimes, A. Storm, A. Stuckey, C. Thomas, A. Trombley, E. Virtue and P. Yanik

Members absent: J. Deziel, M. Kennedy, T. Orr, C. Parrish, and D. Solomon

Others present: E. Frazier, L. Anderson, and M. Murphy

Approval of the Minutes Motion and second to approve the minutes for the October 14, 2022 meeting. Passed.

Program Updates

A School of Nursing MSN Master of Science in Nursing (prelicensure nursing) MEPN curriculum proposal update was presented by Dr. Terri Durbin and Dr. Marguerite Murphy. Graduate Council voted to support the curriculum proposal for the Master's Entry Prelicensure Nursing (MEPN) program which is a fast-track program of study that provides an alternative pathway for individuals who have a bachelor's or graduate degree in another field to become a registered nurse (RN) without having to obtain a second bachelor's degree or an associate's degree at a community college.

The MS in Athletic Training had an accreditation visit.

Hunter Library reported the print collections are crowded so a review and refresh is underway for print resources. The college library liaisons will be reaching out for faculty feedback.

MPA program graduate Lindsey Prather who graduated from the MPA program in 2019 was elected to represent district 115 in the NC House. Here is the news story on Lindsey Prather's win (info on her about is about halfway down): <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2022/11/09/nc-house-senate-races-election-results-2022-mayfield-ager-prather-rudow-daniel-take-wins/69619780007/>), and here's some info about her on her campaign page: <https://www.pratherfornc.com/about>.

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. Bri Byllesby	Psychology	Affiliate
Dr. Jacob Butera	History	Affiliate
Dr. Stephen Wood	Human Services	Affiliate
Dr. Natasha Lipscomb	Human Services	Affiliate
Dr. Todd Zimmer	Human Services	Affiliate
Dr. Terry Brasier	Human Services	Affiliate
Dr. Brandy Nelson	Human Services	Affiliate
Dr. Patrick Conetta	Human Services	Affiliate
Dr. Kristy Davis	Human Services	Affiliate

Approved.

Policy Proposal for Previous Bad Grades GPA Reset Policy

The Graduate GPA Reset Readmission Policy proposal was distributed to the Graduate Council.

The following GPA reset policy was passed by the policy committee. It comes as a 2nd motion:

Graduate GPA Reset Readmission Policy Proposal

Option A: A *program* may request that the Graduate School readmit a graduate student and reset the student's GPA. GPA Reset Readmission permits students, who had **previously enrolled in a graduate program** at Western Carolina University and earned a low GPA to have their cumulative GPA reset. Students must complete the Graduate GPA Reset Readmission form and this must be approved by the program's Graduate Program Director *and* the Graduate School. This process will not remove the previous coursework from the WCU transcript, but it will allow the calculation of the graduate GPA to commence when they re-enroll. None of the coursework from the prior GPA coursework may be transferred or retained for the newly reset program. Furthermore, this process requires a break in enrollment; the coursework for the prior program must have been completed **at least two years** prior to the term in which the student will re-enroll. A student may only use the GPA Reset Readmission one time.

The policy proposal was approved by the Graduate Council for submission to the Faculty Senate Academic Policy and Review Committee (APRC).

Curriculum Review

The following Curriculum items were approved by the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee as members of the graduate faculty and came as a seconded motion for approval and all items were **approved**.

Accountancy (M.Acc.)

Add online modality to program.

The Master of Accountancy program is a 30-hour program targeted to individuals who are currently working in the field or who wish to work in the accounting profession and earn the prestigious Certified Public Accountant ® ("CPA") professional designation, Certified Management Accountant or other accounting certifications. This program will prepare graduates to fulfill roles in audit, tax and financial accounting functions in a wide range of public accounting firms, corporations, governmental and not-for-profit organizations. Canvas (the Learning Management System) will be used to offer the online program asynchronously, providing the necessary flexibility needed by working professionals.

The demand for online programs is increasing. According to Forbes, 68% of students desire online components when searching for degree programs. The net price of these degree programs is also increasing, a total of 79% price increase from 1996 to 2016. The WNC region is highly susceptible to price fluctuations, making it vital to our region to have affordable online programs to meet the needs of our region and support continued economic growth. More recently, we acknowledge that largely due to the pandemic, students are seeking increased flexibility in delivery mode.

Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship (M.E.)

Program Change:

Courses removed from program (PMC 610 & PMC 620)

Added new courses (ENT 615 & ENT 637) The two new courses better fit the aims and description of the program's Innovation Leadership Concentration Course name change (ENT 635) to be is more descriptive of content.

ENT - 615 - Design Thinking

ENT - 635 - Intrapreneurship: Innovation within Organizations

ENT - 637 - Building Innovative Organizations Program Change Courses removed from program (PMC 610 & PMC 620) Added new courses (ENT 615 & ENT 637) The two new courses better fit the aims and description of the program's Innovation Leadership Concentration Course name change (ENT 635) to be is more descriptive of content.

Health Sciences (M.H.S.)

Program Change:

The current MHS program admission requirements stipulate the GRE is required for applicants with a GPA below 3.5. The MHS program proposes removing the GRE as a requirement for admission. During the past two years, the GRE has been waived and outcomes during this time have resulted in no negative impact for admission and student success in the program. The proposal also aligns with other graduate programs at WCU, most recently the DPT program in the College of Health and Human Sciences. In addition, the GRE requirement can pose a significant barrier to otherwise qualified applicants of diverse backgrounds, expands the ongoing MHS applicant pool and thereby supports the MHS mission “to cultivate a health workforce capable of filling important and diverse roles across the health system, and meeting the needs of the WNC region and beyond.”

Master of Science in Athletic Training

Program Change:

When the program was developed, electives were developed just in case they were needed (e.g., independent study, special topics). These were never meant to be required and should not be required, but a Banner error has them listed as graduation requirements. Students are not required to take electives to graduate from the MSAT program and eliminating this requirement on Banner and the catalog will reduce the administrative burden of providing graduation waivers and overrides. The courses will still exist, but they will not be required for graduation.

Doctor of Psychology in Health Service Psychology

Program Change:

Course number changes These courses needed to have their numbers changed from 700s to 800s to make them “doctoral” rather than “graduate” courses. The program change simply reflects the new course numbers.

PSY - 810 - Advanced Social Psychology
PSY - 823 - Professional Consultation in Health Service Psychology
PSY - 844 - Advanced Cognitive Psychology
PSY - 855 - Advanced History and Systems of Psychology
PSY - 873 - Ethics in Health Services Psychology

Financial Assistance

The Financial Assistance Committee had no additional information to report. The Financial Assistance Committee will review summer assistantship application in the 2024 spring term.

Dean Report

Graduate Enrollment Update

Point in time enrollment for the 2023 spring term is 1,120 and SCH equal 10.400.

Proposed Increase in Graduate Tuition

A 3% graduate student tuition increase has been proposed, and the estimated increase in revenue is \$253,000. If approved, the tuition increase will be effective for the 2023 fall term. A draft budget proposal is being prepared and will include a plan to allocate the additional funding. Funding cannot be allocated until the funds are collected.

If supported by the University Tuition and Fees Committee, the Chancellor and Executive Council will present the proposal to the Board of Trustees. If approved, the proposal will be reviewed by the Board of Governors. A final decision should be available by February 2023.

Update from North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools Meeting

Three new doctoral programs were reviewed at the North Carolina Council of Graduate Schools meeting. No new programs have been reviewed or approved over the last few years.

Associate Dean Report

3MT Update

Forty-four graduate students registered for the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) event, twenty-five applications were received, and twelve submissions were reviewed and judged. The first place, second place and People's Choice awards will be announced at the November 17th watch party event at Innovation Station. Please encourage faculty, staff, and students to continue to vote for the People's Choice winner.

Agenda

Assistantship Meetings with Graduate Programs

Dean Kloeppe reported meeting with the sixteen graduate assistantship program directors. Each program reported different assistantship needs and strategies. A draft of the outcomes and proposed 2023-24 allocations will be reported to Provost Starnes. Follow up discussions with the Deans will take place prior to allocations in December.

Dean Kloeppe reported a one-time \$1500 2023 spring term stipend increase for 20 hour per week Graduate School funded assistantship. The funds for the 2023 spring term stipend increases come from uncontracted 2022 fall term assistantships.

Summer assistantships will also be funded from uncontracted 2022-23 academic year assistantships.

Potential Proposals for Budget Requests

The Graduate Council had no requests for budget items using recurring funds.

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 2:00 pm.

Submitted by – Elizabeth Frazier

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