

Graduate Programs Committee Agenda Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Wednesday, 6 October 2021: 2PM-3PM via
ZOOM

Attendance: Dena Kniess, Patrick Hadley, Neema Nori, Jim Yoder, Georgia Evans, Kyle Lorenzano, Mai Naito Mills, Marie-Cécile Bertau, Brent Gilles, Laura Caramanica, Charlie Sicignano, Toby Ziglar, Daryush Ila, and Donna Haley

Guests: Andrew Edelman, Jonathan Corley, Lara Willox, and Anne Barnhart

I. Charges from Faculty Senate President for 2021-2022

- 1) Work closely with the Graduate Advisory Council and consult regularly with the Graduate School Dean - review curriculum proposals, but also be proactive in policy development
- 2) Recommend a policy on standardizing the credentials required for faculty to be designated as graduate faculty
- 3) Ensure faculty initiative in the creation and/or termination of graduate programs
- 4) Examine the relocation of GRAs from individual departments to the Graduate School
- 5) Program and Course Proposals

II. Course/Program Additions, Modifications, Deletions

ACTION ITEMS:

A. College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

1. Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology

A. SOCI 5015:

Originator: Dr. Emily McKendry-Smith. Presented by Dr. Neema Noori.

Request: Add

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: This course was traditionally taught at the undergraduate level. Many students have expressed interest in taking coursework on this topic at the graduate level. This course will serve as an elective for students in the MA program in Sociology and will also be available to graduate students in other programs.

B. SOCI 6986:

Originator: Dr. Emily McKendry-Smith. Presented by Dr. Neema Noori.

Request: Add

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: Experience with the applied track for the MA in Sociology indicates that students get more out of their internship experiences (in SOCI 6286) and write stronger papers/projects when these two things are done separately. This creates a course in which students will work with their applied track chair to write their

applied paper/project.

C. Sociology, MA

Originator: Dr. Emily McKendry-Smith. Presented by Dr. Neema Noori.

Request: Revise Program

Decision: Approved

Discussion: We have two tracks in sociology: the applied track and the thesis track. This program modification only concerns the applied track. Applied track students are required to do an internship, take one additional methods course, and, now with this change, they must also register for an Applied Projects course that will enable them to develop a research paper in which they analyze their internship experience. They used to have to write this paper as part of their internship course. We have decoupled the two tasks -- they now take a separate internship course and a separate Applied project course. Our rationale for separating the paper-writing process from the internship is to help our students develop a better research project.

Concerns were raised about the social justice framing of the program revision and references to advocacy in the catalog language. Dr. Noori pointed out that other academic programs across campus have had social justice-oriented programs approved.

2. Department of Mathematics, Sciences, and Technology

A. Biology – 5430- Wildlife Techniques

Originator: Dr. Nancy Penco. Presented by Dr. Andrew Edelman

Request: Add

Decision: Approved

Discussion: The course has been successfully taught for a couple of years as a 6985 special topics class. Biology is converting it to a permanent course. There was some discussion about why the class was listed at the 5000 level since Biology graduate students are having trouble finding enough classes at the 6000 level. It turns out that courses at the 6000 level require an additional meeting time.

B. Computer Sciences – 5210 – Programming Fundamentals

Originator: Dr. Lewis Baumstark. Presented by Dr. Jonathan Corley

Request: Add

Decision: Approved

Discussion: The course is part of a new program to train certified teachers to teach Computer Science. A new state law mandating computer science training will generate demand for the new program and this course. Programming fundamentals represents a more general introduction to programming basics that could see application outside of this program in the future.

C. Computer Sciences – 5310 – Principles of Computer Science

Originator: Dr. Lewis Baumstark. Presented by Dr. Jonathan Corley

Request: Revise Program

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: This course will be a required course for the CS Education Endorsement program. The course meets several content standards and requirements for the program that are not met by any existing courses. Additionally, the course can serve future programs that wish to include a broad overview of computer science with content introducing concepts in the areas of networking and security as well as a brief introduction to programming. Similar to the previous course, this course will serve as part of the new program, which will have four courses in total.

B. College of Education

1. Department of Counseling, Higher education and Speech Language Pathology

A. Ed.D. in Professional Counseling and Supervision

Originator: Dr. Julia Whisenhunt. Presented by Dr. Dena Kniess

Request: Revise Program

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: The Ed.D. in Professional Counseling and Supervision is requesting three changes. First, they want to reintroduce interviews as part of their admission's policy. Second, they want to identify 4 pre-approved course electives for the 60-hour track. This revision will not apply towards the 39-hour track. Specifying these 4 electives will ensure that they automatically apply towards the 60-hour degree track within WolfWatch. The following language will accompany this revision -- "additional courses may be approved by the program director to allow for deviations from the aforementioned four electives, as approved by the program director." Third, the final change refers to the updated language in the catalog.

2. Department of Educational Technology and Foundations

A. Computer Science Endorsement Program

Originator: Presented by Dr. Lara Willox

Request: Computer Science Endorsement (New Program Request)

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: The four courses that comprise this program will allow certified teachers in Georgia to complete the computer science endorsement to add to their licensure. The Department of Educational Technology and Foundations is offering it because it represents the official connection to the Georgia PSC. However, three of the four classes are offered by Computer Science.

B. MEDT 7499 – Methods and Strategies for CT-integrated Learning

Originator: Presented by Dr. Lara Willox

Request: Add New Course

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: This course has been taught for three years as an independent study under the name, Leading Computational Thinking in P-12 Learning. It will now be taught as a formal course under the name Methods and Strategies for CT-integrated Learning. It will be part of the package of courses associated with the Computer Science Endorsement Program.

III. New Business

A. Graduate School

1. GA Policy for Assistantships in Academic Affairs – Draft Review

Originator: Dr. Toby Ziglar and Dr. Daryush Ila

Request: Vote

Decision: Rejected

Discussion: Senators and representatives questioned why the new proposal did not address some of the key objections raised in the September GPC meeting. The initial proposal generated quite a bit of feedback across campus and in the further September meetings of the GASB as well as the CACSI Graduate Committee Meeting, but few of those recommendations were included in the new proposal. A letter of Collective Concerns from the COE Deans as well as a letter from Joshua Byrd (D.M.A., Music) sent to the Chair of the present committee for today's meeting also display concerned feedback. There was some disagreement about whether the newly revised proposal allowed for multiyear assistantships. After some debate, the committee chair shared the document and we confirmed that the revised proposal did not allow for multiyear assistantships. Drs. Ila and Ziglar debated the provost's stance on multiyear assistantships and whether he supported them. As noted in the September minutes, senators and representatives were concerned that having to reapply for assistantships on a yearly basis would impede efforts to recruit and retain students. Senators and representatives also expressed concern over the composition of the review committee tasked with awarding assistantships. The proposal did not address whether graduate coordinators would serve on the review committee. Senators and representatives pointed out that graduate assistants often take up multifaceted roles that can include supporting multiple research projects as well as helping with a range of departmental operations. A one-size fits all model that is too strongly research-oriented is unlikely to meet the complex needs of graduate assistantships across campus. For example, the library, a non-credit generating division of campus has graduate assistants support special collections, develop digital media tools, participate in digital outreach, and work on creating displays. The library is concerned that the new model of allocating GAs will not prioritize library needs. Senators and representatives similarly expressed concern about the likelihood that this new model would generate internal competition for GA funding. Senators and representatives made the argument that we should reduce competitive impulses within our institution and focus more attention on competing with other universities.

B. Graduate Faculty Policy Status Subcommittee

1. Dr. Georgia Evans, Dr. Linda Caramanica, and Dr. David Boldt volunteered to work on a policy. Dr. Dena Kniess will send the charge to the committee and Dr. Ziglar

will forward current policy and sample policies from peer institutions.

IV. Announcements

- A. Next meeting is November 3rd at 2 PM via Zoom – check your calendar for the link and send a proxy if you are unable to make the meeting

Adjourn: 3:03 PM

Minutes recorded by Neema Nori

Respectfully submitted by Dena Kniess, GPC Chair