

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
September 22, 2021

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Members present: Ford Ballantyne, Suchendra Bhandarkar, Sundar Bharadwaj, Swarn Chatterjee, Merrily Dunn, Melissa Fahmy, Tim Foutz, Cari Goetcheus, Ruth Harman, Ed Kellough, Elizabeth Knight, Kyser Lough, Christof Meile, David Mustard, Kristen Navara, David Peterson, Kaori Sakamoto, Jennifer Samp, Jacek Siry, Shavannor Smith, Elizabeth St. Pierre, Seth Wenger, Catherine White, Dayton Wilde, and Teena Wilhelm. Ron Walcott, Anne Shaffer, Meredith Welch-Devine, Cheri Bliss, Robert Scott, Robin Bingham, and Olivia Myers represented the Graduate School. Subhraleena Dekka represented the Graduate Student Association.

Members absent: Jill Anderson, Jennifer Elkins, Rachel Fusco, Dan Johnson, and Luke Naehar.

VP/Dean Ron Walcott called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes of the August 25, 2021, Graduate Council meeting were approved as posted on the Graduate School website.

Graduate Council Committee Reports and Action Items

- A. Administrative Committee
Ron Walcott, Ex Officio Member
No business to report.
- B. Appeals Committee
Shavannor Smith, Chair
No business to report.
- C. Program Committee
Seth Wenger, Chair
Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee met once on September 15, 2021. The Program Committee would like to recommend and bring forward the following action items for consideration.
- *Action Item:* From the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, a proposal to create the New Media Graduate Certificate. **Approved 23-0**
 - *Action Item:* From the College of Pharmacy, a proposal to create a dual degree in Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and Master of Science in Pharmacy with an emphasis in Regulatory Sciences. **Approved 21-2**
 - *Action Item:* From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Educational Specialist in Education at the Griffin Campus. **Approved 25-0**
 - *Action Item:* From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Education at the Gwinnett Campus. **Approved 25-0**

- *Action Item:* From the Mary Frances Early College of Education, a proposal to terminate the Educational Specialist in Education at the Gwinnett Campus. **Approved 25-0**

D. Policy and Planning Committee

Kaori Sakamoto, Chair

The PPC last met on September 20, 2021 to discuss three policy items. Two of the policies regarding doctoral times to degree and current Graduate Council representation are still in the process of discussion pending additional information. The policy regarding virtual oral qualifying examinations and defenses has been reworded, which is up for vote today.

As a point of information for the Graduate Council, before we go to a discussion of action items, verbiage was added to the continuous enrollment policy as a clarification that the three credit hours could be graduate and/or professional coursework, so that students who were dually enrolled in a graduate and professional program do not have to add more graduate credit hours on top of their already busy professional curriculum. This latter point did not require a vote because it is a clarification.

The following action items are being brought forward for consideration.

- *Action Item:* Change wording in the qualifying exam and defense policy, by removing “extenuating circumstances”. **Approved 24-1**
- *Action Item:* Change wording in the qualifying exam and defense policy, by adding “unit” head. **Approved 25-0**

Please encourage the Graduate Program Faculty in your program to vote when the revote goes out on the two action items revising the Graduate Council Bylaws, which were not decided due to a lack of votes this past spring: (1) voting to have greater representation of graduate students on Graduate Council and (2) how/who can provide agenda items for Graduate Council consideration.

New Business

No new business.

Information Items

- A. Curriculum Report: Since August 2021, the Graduate School has approved 25 new courses, 103 course revisions, and 0 deletions.
- B. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 3:30pm, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.