

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
November 8, 2023

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. in 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Sundar Bharadwaj, John Bray, Jim Conklin, AnnaMarie Conner, Kelly Dyer, Mark Eitemann, Abigail Grimes, Ruth Harman, Ed Kellough, Jill Manners, Sheba Mohankumar, Cory Momany, Kristen Navara, Don Nelson, Erik Ness, Craig Osenberg, David Peterson, Yoo-Kyoung Seock, Alison Smith, Phil Stancil, and George Vellidis. Graduate School: Ron Walcott, Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, and Sha-kim Craft.

Members absent: Vivian Burrell, Jennifer Elkins, Kerstin Emerson, Jeff Mullen, Scott Nelson, Jacek Siry, and Bart Wojdyski.

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

Minutes of the October 11, 2023, 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
Don Nelson, Chair

Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee has met once on November 3, 2023, for one dismissal appeal hearing. Committee members present were Don Nelson (Chair), John Bray, Jennifer Elkins, Kerstin Emerson, Ruth Harman, David Peterson, and Alison Smith. Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss and Sha-kim Craft from the Graduate School were also present. The appeal was due to a low GPA. The committee voted to deny the appeal and uphold the dismissal decision of the Graduate School.

- C. Program Committee
Kristen Navara, Chair

The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.

- Action Item: From the College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Infectious Diseases, a proposal to add an area of emphasis in Infectious Diseases in the Comparative Biomedical Sciences MS degree program. *Approved 19-0-1*
- Action Item: From the Odum School of Ecology, a proposal to deactivate the MS in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability. *Approved 19-0-1*

- Action Item: From the Odum School of Ecology, a proposal to create an area of emphasis in Integrative Conservation and Sustainability in the Ecology MS degree program. *Approved 19-0-1*
- Action Item: From the Mary Francis Early College of Education Department of Kinesiology, a proposal to add an area of emphasis in Adapted Physical Education in the Kinesiology MS degree program (Athens campus only). *Approved 20-0-0*
- Action Item: From the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Department of Nutritional Sciences, a proposal to revise the MS in Nutritional Sciences, Community Nutrition Emphasis program (online). *Approved 20-0-0*
- Action Item: From the College of Engineering School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural and Mechanical Engineering, a proposal for a fully online version of the non-thesis-based Civil and Environmental Engineering (MS) with an area of emphasis in Civil Engineering. *Approved 20-0-0*

D. Policy and Planning Committee
Yoo-Kyoung Seock, Chair

The PPC Committee met on Thursday, November 2, 2023, to continue discussion on two topics: (1) Graduate Coordinator name change and (2) PhD time-to-degree policy. They are bringing these two topics to Graduate Council for a full group discussion.

- Graduate Coordinator name change
- PhD time-to-degree policy

The idea of a name change for the graduate coordinator role was discussed to better reflect the expanded scope and responsibilities of the role. The purpose of discussion was to determine if there was support for the initiative from the Graduate Council. Such a change is within the purview of the College/School administration, but this discussion would show support from the Graduate Council. Call for a vote of support: “Proposal to change the name of Graduate Coordinator to Director of Graduate Studies.” *Approved 20-0-1*

Discussion was initiated on TTD, but was the issue was sent back to PPC for further deliberation/discovery.

Information Items

- A. Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 13 new courses, 39 course revisions, and 0 deletions.
- B. Non-thesis option in the Ecology MS program was administratively approved.
- C. Termination of the Graduate Certificate in Atmospheric Sciences submitted by Curriculum Systems was administratively approved.
- D. Next meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.