

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**

The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in 327 Brooks Hall.

Members present: Sundar Bharadwaj, John Bray, Jim Conklin, Kelly Dyer, Kerstin Emerson, Ruth Harman, Ed Kellough, Jill Manners, Sheba Mohankumar, Cory Momany, Don Nelson, Erik Ness, David Peterson, Yoo-Kyoung Seock, Jacek Siry, Phil Stancil, George Vellidis, and Bart Wojdyski. Graduate School: Ron Walcott, Anne Shaffer, Cheri Bliss, and Robin Bingham.

Members absent: Vivian Burrell, AnnaMarie Conner, Mark Eitemann, Jennifer Elkins, Abigail Grimes, Jeff Mullen, Kristen Navara, Scott Nelson, Craig Osenberg, and Alison Smith.

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

Minutes of the January 17, 2024, 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
No business to report.

- C. Program Committee
Jill Manners, Acting Chair

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

- Action Item 1: From the College of Engineering School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural, and Mechanical Engineering, a proposal to create a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. *Approved 18-0-0*

- Action Item 2: From the College of Engineering School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural, and Mechanical Engineering, a proposal to create a new Graduate Certificate in Natural Infrastructure. *Approved 17-0-1*

- Action Item 3: From the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications, a proposal to create a Graduate Certificate Program in Crisis, Risk, and Disaster Communication. *Approved 18-0-0*

- Action Item 4: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education Department of Communication Sciences and Special Education, a proposal to offer the face-to-face MED in Special Education (General Curriculum area of emphasis) online. *Approved 18-0-0*

- Action Item 5: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education Department of Lifelong Education Administration, and Policy, a proposal to offer the Graduate Certificate in Education Law and Policy as an online program. *Approved 18-0-0*
- Action Item 6: From the Mary Frances Early College of Education Department of Lifelong Education Administration, and Policy, proposals to create the following two official areas of emphasis under the online MED in Educational Administration and policy.
 - a. Academic Track *Approved 18-0-0*
 - b. Tier I Leadership Certificate Track *Approved 18-0-0*

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

The PPC Committee met on Wednesday, 1/10/2024. By unanimous vote (9-0), the following action items are being brought forward.

- Action Item 1: Proposed change in policy on awarding doctoral degrees to University faculty. [carryover from January 17th GC meeting] *Approved 18-0-0*
- Discussion Item: Discussion of doctoral time-to-degree after PPC vote (6-1, 1/30/24) proposing a limit of eight (8) years.

After Graduate Council discussion, a proposal was made to have PPC draft a policy with complete language (including exemptions) for further consideration. *Approved 17-1-0*

Information Items

- A. Curriculum Report: The Graduate School has approved 21 new courses, 8 course revisions, and 0 deletions.
- B. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 3:30pm, 327 Brooks Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.