

Graduate Council 2024-2025

October 3, 2024

Members present: Khaled Ahmed, Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Kelly Bender, Scott Collins, Jane Dougherty, Ahmad Fakhoury, Lance Griswold, Dong Han, Rhonda Kowalchuk, Liliana Leticariu, Jie Shi Liew, Cheng-Yao Lin, Kayla Malone, Kim Parr, Mark Pease, Mark Peterson, Ben Richardson, Jennifer Spreng, Michael Timm, Tomas Velasco, Hale Yilmaz, Matthew Young

Executive-Officio: Jennifer Horton, Karen Jones, Constantinos Tsatsoulis, Sheryl Tucker

Guests: Julie Dunston, Kymberli Morgan, Amber Pond, Mark Sidhom, Elyse Weller

Meeting started at 8:02 AM

- Consideration of 9-5-2024 meeting minutes.
 - The vote on a motion to approve the minutes (with minor corrections) was passed unanimously.
- Remarks from the Chancellor: Austin Lane – not present
- Remarks from Provost: Sheryl Tucker
 - Provost Tucker discussed the Chicago takeover and the interest from our community college partners in having mapped, degree-completion pathways to include graduate degrees.
- Remarks from Vice-Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School: Costas Tsatsoulis
 - VCR Tsatsoulis announced the dedication of BioLaunch tomorrow at 1:00 at McLafferty Annex
- Remarks from Associate Dean & Director of Graduate School: Karen Jones
 - Assoc. Dean Jones informed the GC about Graduate Catalog front matter blanket changes of “department” to “school” and 400-500 graduate courses to generic graduate courses.
 - Prof. Leticariu asked whether faculty need to do any paperwork to change 400 level courses to 500 level. APAP Dunston responded that a Form 90 will be needed when adding a 500-level course. Faculty do not need to submit a form to remove the graduate credit.
- Remarks from Dean of Library Affairs: John Pollitz – Jennifer Horton – No report
- Report from Council Chair: Mark Peterson
 - Prof. Hylin has stepped down from the GC and we are working on a replacement.
 - GC needs to put someone on the Traffic and Parking committee. Email chair if willing to do this.

- Going forward, GC will meet virtually.
- Some have observed that some students are dealing with mental health issues. If sufficient interest exists, we can ask university staff to provide a 10–15-minute presentation at a future meeting.
- Report from GPSC: Michael Timm
 - GPSC is operating without a Vice President for administrative affairs. There will be an election soon.
- Report from Council Vice-Chair: Andy Wilber – No report
- Report from Dean’s Council: Vacant
- Report from Faculty Senate: Amber Pond
 - Executive Council will meet this coming week and then in two weeks.
 - There remains a concern with the Emeritus Status Policy. A revised resolution has been written and has been sent to the GC committee.
- Report from ad hoc committee on Faculty Emeritus Criteria: Andy Wilber – No report
- Report from Program Review Committee: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos
 - In the future, the committee will look at the programs of Psychology and Geography and Environmental Resources.
- Report from Educational Policies Committee: Ahmad Fakhoury
 - Second reading of the Posthumous Degree Policy Resolution. A vote taken and the resolution passed unanimously.
 - First reading of the Resolution on Graduate Student Leave of Absence Policy. There were a few unresolved questions and issues that needed clarification.
 - Assoc. Dean Jones asked whether the catalog wording could have “department” changed to “school.”
 - VCR Tsatsoulis asked about the policy as it pertains to military deployment.
 - There was a question about the maximum number of leaves of absence that could be taken and whether leaves of absence could be consecutive.
 - There was a question about assistantships and whether the student could return to their former position.
 - The issue of how leaves of absence might be viewed by programs that are accredited.
 - There was a suggestion to run the draft resolution by General Counsel to ensure we are not in violation of Title IX.
 - This resolution will be revised and presented at a future meeting.

- First reading of the Resolution to Limit Degree Completion of Doctoral Programs to Ten Years.
 - After some discussion, it was agreed to change the wording of the following line:

“All doctoral degree requirements must be completed within 10 calendar years from the time of admission to the program.” to

“All doctoral degree requirements must be completed within 10 calendar years from the time of initial enrollment.”
 - A motion was made to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. The motion passed.
 - A motion was made to vote on the resolution, and it passed unanimously.

- First reading of the Resolution on Unified Admissions GPA Requirement. There was discussion on the proposed change.
 - The change:

“applicants must have earned a GPA of 2.70 or better on the entire last undergraduate GPA earned at the time of application.” would replace

“the applicant must have earned a GPA of 2.7 or better on approximately the last 60 credit hours of undergraduate coursework. For Fastrack students the entire undergraduate GPA is used.”
 - One view is that the policy would be better if it required a higher GPA, but having a shorter lookback period of, say, two years.
 - The possibility of exceptions was discussed, and it was noted that exceptions can be made.
 - A motion was made to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. The motion passed.
 - A motion was made to vote on the resolution, and it passed by a vote of 18-1.

- Report from New Programs Committee: Tomas Velasco
 - First reading of the RME to rename Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory to Center for Wildlife Sustainability Research. (Guest: Prof. Mike Eichholz, Director CWRL)
 - There was a question about the use of the word *Center*. VCR Tsatsoulis indicated that is not an issue.
 - A motion was made to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. The motion passed.
 - A motion was made to vote on the resolution, and it passed unanimously.

 - First reading of the RME to rename Physician Assistant Studies to Physician Associate Studies.
 - A motion was made to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. The motion passed.
 - A motion was made to vote on the resolution, and it passed unanimously.

 - First reading of the RME for Ph.D. Civil and Environmental Engineering.
 - A motion was made to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. The motion passed.
 - A motion was made to vote on the resolution, and it passed unanimously.

- First reading of the RME to create a department of Physician Associate Medicine that consists of the Physician Assistant Program and the Doctor of Medical Science Program.
 - There was a question about whether new resources would be required. APAP Dunston stated that there would be no additional resources needed.
 - A motion was made to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution. The motion passed.
 - A motion was made to vote on the resolution, and it passed unanimously.
- Report from Research Committee: Kelly Bender
 - The Research Committee met on September 17th and discussed the third quarter equipment proposals sent to OVCR. The committee put forth summaries of recommendations.
- Other
- Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.