

**Graduate Council Minutes**  
**April 15, 2020– 3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**ZOOM**

X	Jerry McMurtry	X	Kristin Henrich (Library)	X	David Tank (COS)
X	Julie Amador (EHHS)	X	Gordon Murdoch (At-Large/CALS)	X	Elowyn Yager (At-Large/ENGR)
X	Linda Chen (CBE)	X	Mark Warner for Kelly Q. (CLASS)	X	Ata Zadehgol (ENGR)
X	Dan Cronan (CAA)	X	Alistair Smith (CNR)	X	Jordan Hardy (GPSA)
x	Robert Heinse (At-Large/UWP)	X	Daniel Strawn (CALS)	X	Connor Hill (GPSA)

- I. Approval of the minutes from March 25, 2020
  - Yager moved to approve. Seconded by Smith.
  - Approved unanimously.
  
- II. Announcements and Reports
  - A. Open Positions in Graduate Admissions
    - Two processor positions will soon be vacant in Graduate Admissions. Members were asked to spread the word and recommend good candidates to apply for the position. Both positions will be filled from one posting. No degree is required.
  - B. Grad Campaign Coordinator Position in SEM
    - There is also a Graduate Campaign Coordinator position open in Strategic Enrollment Management.
  - C. GPSA
    - Elections are coming up. They are seeking nominations for positions. Please, pass the word along to graduate students.
  
- III. Old Business
  - A. Continuous Enrollment – GRAD 710/720
    - GRAD 710 – Continuous Enrollment
    - GRAD 720 – Finishing Status
    - The continuous enrollment and finishing status courses will be GRAD classes, rather than in department/college.
    - The cost will be 25% of the current rate for one academic credit – for AY 20-21, that will be \$145.75.
    - This will go to the General Faculty Meeting. If approved, it will be in effect as soon as the President puts his stamp of approval on it. Effective Summer 2020.
    - Smith moved to approve. Seconded by Heinse. Approved unanimously.
  
- IV. New Business
  - A. Duolingo English Test
    - Due to the COVID-19 situation, there is an issue with the administration of the English proficiency tests accepted by UI. There is a proposal to accept the Duolingo English Proficiency test with a score of 100-110 for admissions into COGS.
    - Members had concerns with whether the test is proctored or whether the identity of the test taker is being confirmed.

- This proposal is for a permanent policy change to allow the Duolingo English test as one of the tests accepted by COGS for admission.
  - Members asked if it could be accepted temporarily for now to test it out.
  - Members suggested it could be tied with the timing of the COVID-19 emergency proclamation.
  - Zadehgo moved to approve an amendment to the proposed language to allow the Duolingo English proficiency test for the period of time defined by the COVID-19 emergency proclamation. FHS 6990.  
--Seconded by Smith.  
--Amendment approved unanimously.
  - Smith moved to approve the amended proposal to allow the Duolingo English proficiency test for the period of time defined by the COVID-19 emergency proclamation.  
--Seconded by Cronan.  
--Approved unanimously.
- B. Streamlined Admissions Process for Professional Programs and Alumni
- There is a proposal to create a streamlined admissions process for UI alumni or currently enrolled seniors to be accepted into professional/non-thesis degree programs.
  - This program would:
    - waive application fee
    - waive letters of recommendation requirement
    - provide automatic admission if the student has a 3.0 GPA. If student has below a 3.0, it would be sent to the department for a decision.
  - Student would have to:
    - provide a letter of interest
    - have a degree in an area that qualifies them for the graduate program
  - Self-supporting programs would be excluded – EMBA, MSAT
  - Departments would opt-in to this program
  - Questions/Answers
    - Q: What about provisional students? Could a letter of recommendation be required? A: Maybe require a CV or resume or a personal statement.  
---Members were leery of allowing provisional students in on this program.
    - Q: How broadly is this envisioned? Some deans talked like it would be open to all programs. A: The initial discussion was for non-thesis programs.
    - Q: How would students getting a degree in one program but wishing to switch to a different program for grad be treated? A: Pass the materials along to the department for a decision.
  - Comments/suggestions:
    - Let departments decide whether they want to be included in this program, regardless of thesis or non-thesis.
    - Members recommend not allowing students with less than 3.0 GPA admission under this program, or let the department decide what the student will be required to submit for consideration for admission.
    - Bounce any that fall into a grey area back to the department for a decision.

- Move to approve a fast track admission process for departments that opt-in and define which of their programs will be included. This will be open to current seniors and alumni. Application fee waived; letters of recommendation requirement waived; letter of interest and minimum 3.0 GPA are required for automatic admission. Provisional and students with less than 3.0 GPA will be passed along to the department for decision.
  - Strawn moved to approve. Seconded by Zadehgo. Passed unanimously.
- C. Emeritus Language
- Proposed language was added to the Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities of Emeritus Faculty section of FSH based on outcomes of a Faculty Senate meeting.
  - Language added: Emeriti faculty are encouraged to participate on graduate student committees and may chair with the approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.
  - Questions/concerns:
    - members were generally in favor of allowing them to serve on committees, but were reluctant to allow them to chair them.
    - Concern was expressed for the amount of care graduate students would receive from having a retired faculty member chair their committee.
    - The COGS dean would have to reevaluate each year.
    - What about having them serve as co-chair?
    - Warner reminded the group about a meeting with Liz Brandt from last year. She talked about a meeting she had with Legal Counsel re: this, and there were legal issues with allowing retired faculty to chair graduate committees. They have their Vandalweb access removed upon retirement. It would be a FERPA issue. Lawyers' heads would explode.
  - Suggested amendment: Emeriti faculty are encouraged to participate on graduate student committees. Emeriti faculty who have previously held graduate faculty status are encouraged to co-chair graduate committees with the approval of the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.
  - Smith moved to approve as amended. Seconded by Chen. Approved unanimously.
- D. Deadlines for Graduate Admissions
- Priority deadline is currently February 1 for consideration for funding.
  - Members expressed concern that this deadline scares students away. CNR reported receiving emails from students saying they didn't apply because they thought they missed the deadline.
  - There was a suggestion to push it to the departments to decide their own application deadlines.
  - Comments/concerns:
    - is it possible to change the language to say "preferred date?"
    - Having a firm deadline is not a good idea.
    - On the other hand, a deadline is important so the department gets a good pool of applicants to review and compare.
    - It should be left up to the department to decide.
    - It makes sense to have a deadline for the purpose of making TA offers.
    - Suggestion to write language that indicates the priority deadline for funding is...
  - Language will be drafted to soften the February 1 deadline but make it clear that funding decisions are made early.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.