

MINUTES

Graduate Studies Committee

March 28, 2014 Meeting

The meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee was called to order by Dr. Ken Klase at 10:00 a.m. in 2711 MHRA.

Members Present: Dennis Askew, Bruce Banks, Laura Chesak, Steven Cramer, Tony Cuda, Vincent Francisco, Stephen Holland, Christopher Kepley, Ken Klase, Angela Newman, Jodi Pettazoni, Kelly Rowett-James, Linda Rupert, Susan Walcott, Bill Wiener.

Absent with Notice: David Ayers, Michael Kane, Sam Miller

Absent without Notice: Michael Boglovits, Karen Katula

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the February 28, 2014 meeting were approved.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR – Dr. Kenneth Klase

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE SENATE REPRESENTATIVE – Dr. David Ayers

There was no report in Dr. Ayers' absence.

REPORT OF THE DEAN – Dr. William Wiener

Nothing to report.

REPORT OF THE POLICIES & PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. Susan Walcott

Item 1: Initial discussion of proposal to amend *The Graduate School Bulletin*, under "Full Graduate Admission," to state that all applicants must have obtained "satisfactory academic standing as an undergraduate: "B" (3.0 GPA) average or better." Delete: "in the undergraduate major and in courses prerequisite to the proposed graduate study." Most transcripts do not provide a GPA in the undergraduate major along with the overall GPA, and it is difficult for The Graduate School to discern the courses in the major and hand-calculate the GPA efficiently. Departments would still have the option to evaluate the GPA in the major and to include that in their rationale to the Dean if requesting full admission for someone with an overall GPA below 3.0. The Subcommittee will distribute the proposal to graduate faculty for comment and feedback; a vote is planned for the April meeting.

Item 2: The Subcommittee brought to the full GSC a request from the faculty in the MFA in Creative Writing (Department of English) to remove the GRE as a requirement for application for admission, citing top peer institutions that do not require a standardized exam. The program also requires a writing sample. Discussion also addressed comparisons with Studio Arts and Music, which do not require standardized exams. Approved.

Item 3: Request from TEHE to remove the GRE as a requirement for application for admission to MAT programs. Withdrawn from the agenda at the request of Dean Wixson given Dr. Miller's absence.

Item 4: Discussion item added at the request of Dean Wiener, who has received requests from departments to waive a required standardized exam on the basis of an applicant's prior master's degree.

The Subcommittee is requested to develop exact wording for a proposal, specifying for example whether the master's should be in a related field or may be in any field. Item will be distributed to graduate faculty for comment. The Dean also mentioned that departments sometimes request to use GRE scores older than five years, but ETS cannot provide an official report of scores older than 5 years.

Item 5: Discussion of document prepared jointly by Student Affairs Subcommittee, in consultation with the Graduate Student Association, and the Policies & Procedures Subcommittee, on "Best Practices in Advising and Mentoring Graduate Students." University Counsel is currently reviewing the document. Members suggested posting this document prominently on The Graduate School's website and in the Handbook for Directors of Graduate Study, as well as informing departments via email so that they can link to the document. Members discussed that these are guidelines or best practices and that departments still need to have more precise policies for their students. Vote to endorse "Best Practices": Approved.

Other items:

Discussion of redefinition of full-time status for graduate students from 6 to 9 hours per semester. The Department of Education allows universities to determine "full-time" status. In the UNC system, UNCG is the only campus with a standard of 6 hours per semester. Across the country, relatively few universities use 6 hours as the standard. The Director of the Financial Aid Office has clarified that there is little potential impact on UNCG students' eligibility for financial aid; currently only 109 students receive financial aid with enrollment in only 3 hours. Students enrolled in 6 hours would still be eligible for financial aid under the revised definition, although those enrolled in only 3 hours would not. Policy could support a reduction in time to degree for part-time students, as well as a reduction in total indebtedness. For residence requirements for doctoral students, The Graduate School recommends maintaining the current policy on two consecutive semesters of at least 6 main-campus hours (not 9). With regard to assistantships, The Graduate School will allow students enrolled in 6 hours per semester to remain eligible for assistantships; departments may elect to impose a higher standard. The Graduate School also recommends implementation no sooner than Fall 2015 if the policy is approved. Members discussed that academic departments should examine how the language of their own policies about "full-time" enrollment may be affected by the changed definition. Departments may also need to adjust scheduling of courses. There is no anticipation that departments will increase the total credits required for a degree due to a definition of 9 hours. The committee will vote at the April meeting.

Proposed policy on non-traditional dissertations: dissertations with chapters or sections with multiple authors. There was some discussion and concern about the type of work that might be rejected by The Graduate School. Dean Wiener affirmed the need to know that the "majority" of work represents the student, who has demonstrated an ability to perform independent research or carry out the primary responsibility for research. The form developed to accompany the policy will be distributed so that proposal committees can evaluate what the student's contribution is expected to be. Members discussed current practice/expectations of peer-reviewed journals, which may either limit the number of authors or require that each author specify the percentage of his/her contribution. Members strongly recommended addressing this issue with students at the proposal stage and not solely at the defense, with the proposal being the preferred point for any intervention. The Subcommittee will re-distribute the policy for a vote at the April meeting.

Proposed policy on residence requirements for online doctoral programs. Members discussed whether the proposed policy is rigorous enough; departments can always impose stronger requirements. Discussion included examples of other online programs that require a minimum of one week/year on

campus at the beginning of the fall semester. Members discussed the nature and type of various programs and recommended consideration of practice-based vs. research-based doctorates in the policy, sending the policy back to the Subcommittee for further revision. The policy will be revised and redistributed for a vote at the April meeting.

REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. Vincent Francisco for Dr. Miller

ROUTINE CHANGES (Form D - No enclosures)

Approved with minor revisions:

1. **CHE 558: Biochemistry Laboratory** – Pr. CHE 556 or equivalent, *CHE 353 or CHE 354, CHE 333, or permission of instructor.*

Tabled:

2. **ARH 605 503: Perspectives in Contemporary Art** - Pr. *Graduate status in the Art Department, or completion of 15 or more undergraduate hours in art history, or written permission of the instructor.*
3. **KIN 615: Qualitative Research Methods** – Research design and methods for physical activity health and human sciences settings including data source sampling and triangulation; collection and analysis of artifact, observation, interview, focus group data; within case analysis, writing case reports. – Add online delivery method.

NEW/AMENDED COURSE PROPOSALS (Form A)

Approved with minor revisions:

1. **CHE 624: Survey of Natural Products Research** – Effective Fall 2014
2. **KIN 638: Therapeutic Modalities** – Effective Fall 2014
3. **KIN 705: Applied Rehabilitation Concepts** – Effective Fall 2014
4. **NUR 506: Role of Nursing Administration in Quality and Safety** – Effective Fall 2014
5. **NUR 540: Financial Management in Healthcare** – Effective Spring 2015
6. **CPS 505/SWK 505: Environmental Justice: Interdisciplinary Response for Sustainability** – Effective Fall 2014
7. **CPS 517: Peacebuilding Challenges in a Complex World** – Effective Fall 2014

Tabled:

8. **KIN 636: Athletic Injury Evaluation** – Effective Fall 2014
9. **KIN 640: Rehabilitation Techniques for Athletic Injuries** – Effective Fall 2014
10. **KIN 704: Athletic Training Seminar** – Effective Fall 2014

Rejected:

11. **KIN 706: Online Pedagogy** – Effective Summer 2015

PROGRAM REVISION (Form G)

Approved:

1. **Media Studies – MFA in Drama (Concentration in Film and Video Production)** –

- Offer MST 528 as an option in place of MST 620 and MST 625. – Effective Fall 2014
2. **Nursing - MSN Nurse Anesthesia Concentration** – Increase credit requirement from 50 to 82 credits. Increase credits for NUR 671, 672, 674, and 675.
 3. **Nursing – Nurse Anesthesia PMC** – Increase credit requirement from 41 to 73 credits. Increase credits for NUR 671, 672, 674, and 675.

Approved with minor revisions:

4. **Kinesiology – MS in Athletic Training** – Increase credit hours from 48 to 49. Delete KIN 637, KIN 639, KIN 641, and KIN 743; Increase KIN 704 and KIN 705 to 3 credit course; Increase KIN 636, KIN 638, and KIN 640 by 1 credit hour each. – Effective Fall 2014

Tabled:

5. **Kinesiology – EdD in Kinesiology (Online)** – Add three required on-campus visits; Add KIN 610, 662, 664, 676, 701, 706, 715, and 798 to online format. Title change for KIN 652 – Effective Fall 2014.

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO PLAN A NEW DISTANCE EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAM (Appendix F)

Approved with minor revisions:

1. **EdS in Educational Leadership** – Effective Summer 2014
2. **MEd in Teacher Education: Elementary Science Education** – Effective Fall 2014