

Minutes

Graduate Studies Committee

Nov. 14, 2014

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

Members Present: Anthony Cuda, David Ayers, Ken Klase, William Wiener, Kathy Hytten, Susan Walcott, Laura Chesak, Arthur Anastopoulos, Sam Miller, Steve Cramer, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Wells and Nancy Callanan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the October 17 meeting was approved pending minor corrections.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR – Kenneth Klase

The committee chairs for the Faculty Senate met with the provost. The implementation of the new course load requirements for full-time graduate status was discussed, and the faculty indicated that there was a general lack of understanding about what would be necessary for the fall implementation of the new requirements. Dr. Klase said that the issue was also discussed by the Policies and Procedures Committee and would expand more in that report.

Dr. Klase also discussed the impending task force that will look at the curriculum review process and examine what issues exist at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The task force started with its first meeting on Nov. 14. He asked for GSC members on the task force to provide feedback to the committee.

REPORT OF THE SENATE REPRESENTATIVE – David Ayers

The Chancellor reported to the Faculty Senate about the current status of the budget and the recent controversies and challenges faced by the university. She also outlined the goal of the task force on curricular affairs.

The Faculty Senate discussed the adoption of an ombudsman position modeled on one that exists at UNC Chapel Hill. They also discussed a resolution for a comprehensive review of campus culture and decision-making processes. That resolution was tabled. Another resolution supporting shared governance across the UNC system was also discussed.

Senate elections are under way. One issue discussed was the rule change allowing the Faculty Senate Chair to be elected from the faculty in general and not only from Faculty Senate. Recruiting is now underway for candidates for the position.

REPORT OF THE DEAN – William Wiener

Dr. Wiener discussed a change in the process for the approval of new programs. In the past, when a program had been approved by the GSC, it would go to a committee composed of the Graduate Dean, the undergraduate equivalent, the GSC chair and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee chair. Once approved, the program would be put in a priority list sent to General Administration, which accepted three programs at a time from each university.

Since GA has decided it will now look at five programs, the provost wanted more input at beginning of the process to prioritize programs. The Process in New Academic Programs procedure will ask departments to develop a 3-5 page white paper that outlines how the new program fits in the university's strategic mission, the resources required, the cost and the uniqueness of the program. The Dean of the unit will first review the paper then move it forward to the deans at the Academic Council.

Dr. Wiener discussed the status of the impending change from six credit hours to nine credit hours. After hearing feedback about uncertainty, the Graduate School is concerned that departments have not taken steps to implement the changes. At the Provost's request, the Graduate School will hold special meeting with department Directors of Graduate Study focused on the change.

The Dean discussed the use of Academic Analytics in program's undergoing periodic reviews. He would like to see more use of the tool, which is in common use at many universities. In order to help deans, research deans and department representatives learn more about how to use Academic Analytics, the software vendor held an informational meeting on campus on Nov 20. Dr. Wiener said he would like to explore creating pilot projects using the analytical tool with interested departments.

The Graduate School held its final round of the 3 Minute Thesis competition on Nov. 18. The Dean praised the competition and invited members of the committee to attend.

He discussed the development of new Graduate School recruitment materials – including a general pamphlet and specific recruitment pamphlets. The Graduate School will provide opportunities for department's to provide feedback on the materials before they are printed. The Graduate School newsletter *Horizons* will also be printed and distributed after the Thanksgiving break.

The assessment modules developed at UNCG for the Preparing Future Leaders program were presented to the N.C. Conference of Graduate School Deans, where Dr. Wiener offered their use to other schools in the system. N.C. State plans to use the modules. He also intends to open their use nationwide at the Council of Graduate School Deans in December.

REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE – Nancy Callanan

There was additional discussion on the Provost's curricular task force. Concerns were raised about previous committee's stringent use of criteria such as Bloom's Taxonomy in evaluating course proposals. Current members of the Curriculum Subcommittee said that the group is no longer as rigid in applying that criteria when evaluating proposals.

A motion was made to approve the decisions of the Curriculum Subcommittee.

ROUTINE CHANGES (Form D)

1. **NUR 541: Nursing Case Management: Coordinating Systems of Care** – Delete course. Effective Fall 2015.
2. **NUR 550: Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing** – Delete course. Effective Fall 2015.
3. **NUR 551: Instructional Technologies in Nursing and Patient Education** – Delete course. Effective Fall 2015.
4. **NUR 601: Critique and Utilization of Research in Nursing** – Prerequisite ~~NURS 602, 610 and first concentration specialty course.~~ Prerequisite NURS 705 and first concentration specialty course. Effective Fall 2015.
5. **NUR 602: Research Methods in Nursing** – Delete course. Effective Fall 2015.
6. **NUR 610: Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice** – Delete course. Effective Fall 2015.
7. **NUR 643: Nursing Administration Practicum** – Prerequisite ~~NUR 620, 643 and Pr. or Coreq. NUR 541.~~ Prerequisite NUR 620 and 642. Effective Fall 2015.
8. **NUR 629, NUR 630, NUR 631, NUR 632, NUR 671, NUR 698 and NUR 699:** - Remove prereq. and/or coreq. of NUR 610 due to deletion of course. Effective Fall 2015.
9. **NUR 633, NUR 634, NUR 635, NUR 642, NUR 672, NUR 682, NUR 698 and NUR 699:** - Remove prereq. And/or coreq. of NUR 602 due to deletion of course and replace with NUR 705. Effective Fall 2015.
10. **NUR 698 and 699:** - Remove prereq. And/or coreq. of NUR 602 and NUR 610 due to deletion of course and replace with NUR 705. Effective Fall 2015.
11. **NUR 714: Informatics in Healthcare** – ~~NUR 714 Technology in Healthcare~~ NUR 714 Informatics in Healthcare. Update Bulletin description to read: This course is focused on information systems, application of informatics in patient care, and data management to promote quality and safety in healthcare. Effective Fall 2015.

Approved with Revisions

12. **NUR 682: Health Promotion/Disease Prevention for Healthy Aging** – Prerequisite ~~NUR 550, NUR 610 and coreq. NUR 681.~~ Pr. or Coreq. ~~NUR 602.~~ Prerequisite NUR 680, NUR 610 and coreq. NUR 681. Pr. or Coreq. NUR 602.

NEW/AMENDED COURSE PROPOSALS (Form A)

Tabled

1. **NUR 601: Critique and Utilization of Research in Nursing** – Effective Fall 2016

NEW CONCENTRATIONS, SECOND ACADEMIC CONCENTRATIONS, AND MINORS (Form F)

Approved with Revisions

1. **NUR – DNP Executive Leadership Concentration** – Effective Fall 2015

CERTIFICATE OR LICENSURE PROGRAM PROPOSAL (Form J)

2. **MUP - Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Historical Keyboard Performance** – Effective Spring 2015

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mode of Delivery Change Approved Course List:

HIS 631
KIN 601
NUR 714
SPA 532
SPA 562

REPORT OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SUBCOMMITTEE – Kenneth Klase

The Policies and Procedures Subcommittee discussed the Provost's curricular task force at their meeting. They also discussed the Graduate School visioning process and will take up the discussion again when the vision is finalized and submitted to the subcommittee.

In response to concerns about the requirements for graduate admission provisional admission, Dean Wiener said that he would like to formalize the requirements for admission by setting the criteria at a 3.0 and graduation from an accredited institution with a baccalaureate degree, while allowing provisional acceptance to students who graduated with a 2.4 and has other academic or professional qualifications.

This would broaden the number of students who could be admitted and receive financial aid. Students who fall below those requirements could still take a Visions course and, if they made a 3.0 or better in the course, be admitted with provisional status. It was suggested that the requirements add "following department

regulations” to make sure there is no belief that there is a guarantee of admission following an acceptable performance in a Visions course. In terms of current numbers, the Dean said that 42 percent of students who enroll in a Visions course go on to be admitted to a graduate program.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE – Anthony Cuda

No report given.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

The committee discussed and approved accepting the Pearson PTE Language Assessment for a one-year trial period. UNCG now accepts IELTS and TOEFL foreign language exams, and the Dean believes that the Pearson test would broaden the number of foreign students who can apply to the university. He also said that since Pearson suggests universities to students who take the test, this could increase the number of foreign students enrolling at UNCG. The vote adds “A Score of at least 53” on the test to the existing IELTS and TOEFL requirements.

The vote followed a discussion that raised concerns about Pearson’s business practices and the implications of endorsing the for-profit corporation by accepting the test. Anthony Cuda said that he had issues with the ways in which Pearson has dominated the K-12 space by producing tests, teacher evaluations and other materials.

The committee also discussed concerns about the accuracy of the test, which is administered and graded by a computer. Dean Wiener says UNC, which uses the test, had no concerns. Dr. Cuda said that he was worried that, especially in cases involving under-represented students, whether the computer evaluator would negatively impact their scores.

To address the concerns, the committee decided to accept the PTE scores for a year, then revisit the test after evaluating UNCG’s experience.

ADJOURNMENT