

Graduate Council
GRADUATE COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 30, 2020 • 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Members present: Paul Steimle, Greg Bell, Aaron Beveridge, Kelly Burke, Tami Draves, Ben Dyson, Vidya Gargeya, Diane Gill, Courtney Harrington, Nancy Hoffart, Lexi Hoopman, Glenn Hudak, Brad Johnson, Dennis LaJeunesse, Zhi-Jun Liu, Jodi Pettazzoni, Neelofer Qadir, Naglaa Rashwan, Paul Steimle

I. Approval of Minutes from September 25, 2020

Motion to approve September 25, 2020 minutes (Johnson, Hoffart). Minutes Approved.

II. Report of the Chair – Paul Steimle –

Chair advised there were several good meetings this week. The Graduate Faculty meeting had good attendance and provided an opportunity to highlight what departments have been doing. DGS meeting was held as well.

III. Report of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education – Kelly Burke

Dean Burke agreed it's been a great week for graduate education. Graduate work has been publicly recognized, people like the direction we are taking graduate education. There is excitement over the templates. There is a big push on everything undergraduate, with new Vice Chancellor for Enrollment.

IV. Report of the Graduate Curriculum Committee – Nancy Hoffart

- *GCC Information Items (from October 9, 2020 and October 23, 2020 meetings)*
GCC is getting through about 60% of the agenda each meeting. We continue to look at ways to streamline, incorporating a pilot for routine reviews, by chair and one other close reader. We will have to delay the quality improvement work until all Fall 2021 proposals are reviewed. Nancy thanked everyone for their hard work

V. Report of the Policies & Procedures Committee – Ben Dyson

- Stacking Micro-Credentials to Earn a Degree
- Previously Published Work

Ben stated the Policy Committee met last week and thanked Megan for taking minutes. The committee discussed both agenda issues.

Dean Burke provided an overview of micro-credentials. These are credentials that are not a full master's degree, could be as small as a badge. We are interested in digital badging (electronic signature & LinkedIn). If two or more different academic certificates can lead up to the student learning outcomes of a master's degree, students could earn 3 different credentials. Differentiating and highlighting expertise is important these days.

There are opportunities for dissecting and organizing degrees we already have as well as creating multidisciplinary approaches. There is an interest in forming a policy to allow programs to take advantage of the certificates. Certificates should have a minimum of nine credits.

Dean Burke has purchased a webinar on micro credentialing and will login if interested. University Communications is working to create a UNCG branded badge. These ideas are conceptual at this point, a lot of operationalizing is needed.

Dean Burke asked to retract the document shared previously.

Discussion followed; existing Post-Bac Certificates are fine. Stacking certificates vary by creating a baseline set of courses and then a student can select two other certificates to earn the master's degree. These badges and certificates will also go through the standard curriculum approval process, anything that is academic (awarding any sort of academic credit) is bound by our established governance. Undergraduate students enrolled in an accelerated master's degree take up to twelve credits of graduate courses, those four courses might be framed into a certificate for them. Badges could also be the equivalent of a learning outcome.

Dean Burke advised that a policy is being developed for undergraduate certificates.

Ben asked Greg to lead the discussion on Previously Published Work.

Greg advised this is related to the revision of the Guidelines for Thesis and Dissertations that was presented to the full Graduate Faculty Tuesday. We now explicitly allow any department that chooses to do so, to make a "staple dissertation" where they take three or more articles to create a dissertation (three is the standard number). During conversation with Graduate Faculty, we revised the guidelines to include papers that students are intending to submit, not just ones that have already been submitted. This could potentially complicate things when students either put something in their dissertation and then later go to try to publish it or they submit something and it appears in a journal and then they want to include it in their dissertation. The goal is to make sure that students are not in a situation where they've painted themselves in a corner where they can't use something in a dissertation because it's been published somewhere that doesn't allow that or where they can't publish what they thought they were going to be able to publish because it has already appeared in their dissertation. We need a policy (or guidelines) that informs students and faculty about these potential pitfalls.

Greg advised there are examples of the policy available and has shared them with Ben and Megan in the hopes that the University Library could provide assistance.

Kelly advised the Library is the perfect place to guide students. The Graduate School must be assured that if there is a previously published work in a dissertation that they have permission to publish it in their dissertation. Discussion followed; guidance is needed for simultaneous dissertation and publishing. Students should be aware of predatory publishers. Faculty should help students by determining the value of publishing a book,

shopping around to the best possible publisher once they have finished their work. Suggestion that Graduate Council sponsor a graduate faculty forum on this topic, administrators should also be invited.

A forum for students about predatory publishers would also be helpful, this should be an evolving conversation (mindful of generational divide, open access journals, print journals). The Policy Committee will work with the University Library on this.

Motion to approve in concept, the establishment of new guidelines/format of Thesis and Dissertation Governance, knowing that some revisions are needed. (Hoffart, Gill). Motion approved.

VI. Report of the Student Appeals Committee –

Dean Burke advised the committee has one action; an appeal has been sent to the committee. The committee is waiting for a written response.

The committee will meet and elect a chair.

VII. Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee – Vidya Gargeya

Vidya provided a written report to share with Council.

The meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was held on October 13th, 2020. At the meeting, Tami Draves informed the members that the Graduate Council is considering grade relief for graduate students for Fall 2020 semester (as was done for spring 2020 semester). The other items discussed at the meeting were (1) delaying MAC Implementation from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022, (2) budget, (3) COVID-19 Issues, (4) Chancellor Search Policy, (5) Revised calendars for Spring 2021, and for 2022-2024 periods, and (6) Faculty Dependent Program (from the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee).

VIII. New Business/Other

Dean Burke advised the Graduate Faculty sent back a request to tweak the Grade Relief Policy slightly by requiring the student to meet with their academic advisor or chair prior to putting in a grade relief request.

Motion to accept minor revisions to relief policy (Dyson, Hoopman). Motion approved.

Dean Burke advised we cannot release this policy to the public until approved by the Provost. Chair suggested Council review this matter again early in the spring semester. Discussion followed concerning the continuing stress level of students and faculty, COVID impact statements for promotion and tenure.

IX. Adjournment