

GRADUATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – November 21, 2013

Meeting Location: Room 3007, Psychology Building

Present: Jennifer Branscome (for David Wasieleski), Eric Chambers (for Jim Loughry), Michael Davey, Matthew Grant, E-Ling Hsiao, Lyle Indergaard, Fred Knowles, James LaPlant (presiding), Rusty McClung (for Ellice Martin), David Nelson, Michael Sanger, Mel Schnake, Nancy Swanson, Grazyna Walczak (for Sandra Kregar), Kate Warner, Sherman Yehl. Guests: Rebecca Petrella, Kayla Smith, Teresa Williams.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. James LaPlant at 2:03 PM.

Minutes from the October 24, 2013 meeting were approved.

College of Arts and Sciences

Curriculum Change – MS Biology; Revised Course – BIOL 7900: The changes would reduce the required credit hours from 36 to 30, keeping the program in line with other University System of Georgia programs, allowing students to complete research and graduate in a timely manner. Biology 7900 will change to a 2-hour course to reflect contact hours. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposals were approved.

Course Deactivation – SOCI 6700: Since Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) has moved to the College of Education and Human Services, this course is no longer needed. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The deactivation was approved.

College of Education and Human Services

Revised Catalog Copy (2) – MED ACED Business Ed & Information Technology;

Revised Catalog Copy (2) – MED ACED Workforce Ed & Development;

Revised Catalog copy (2) – EDD ACED: Rusty McClung said that for master's programs, the changes would update outcome assessments and educational outcomes in each area of study and expand the programs by adding capstone projects. Terminology will be specific about workforce requirements. EDD changes expand the requirements to include professional presentations to allow for better data collection used for reporting purposes. Motion was made to approve; seconded. The proposals were approved.

Graduate School

Revised Catalog Copy – International Applicants: Rebecca Petrella said that after discussions with the Center for International Programs, there was a need to update the language in the graduate catalog and to update the web address for evaluation of transcripts and other information. The GEC discussed TOEFL scores – percentiles year-by-year seemed different from raw scores. The question was asked – are programs allowed to require higher scores than standard scores? Yes. More information was needed regarding the move to requiring percentiles instead of raw scores, so the GEC elected to table this proposal.

Other Business:

1. Graduate School Strategic Plan: The plan is due in December and will include several overarching goals that the graduate school staff agreed upon during a recent retreat. The goals include a) marking and recruiting, b) support for graduate student travel, c) graduate faculty scholarships, d) utilizing technology, e) staff development, and f) fund raising.
2. Graduate Faculty Scholarship Fund: There was a record number of applications for funding – 25 applications across disciplines. Total amount requested: \$17,000 (\$4,000 for recruitment and \$13,000 for scholarship). Extra funds from the Provost's office will provide a way to fund all requests this year.
3. Non-Degree Classification: The question was recently raised about courses taken under non-degree (NOD) status (up to 9 hours can be taken in NOD status and applied toward a graduate degree or toward certification) -- can certification courses be used in a doctorate program if the total taken were 9-15 hours? After discussion, it was agreed that the current policy would stand and that programs would agree amongst themselves what hours would be accepted on a case by case basis with approval of the graduate dean if needed.
4. Graduate Student Research & Scholarship Symposium: The tentative date for the symposium is Friday, April 25 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the UC Magnolia Room.
5. Topics from the Floor: Graduation Concerns – Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) students have voiced their concerns that many complete their requirements and graduate in the summer. But, because of the new schedule, there will no longer be a summer graduation. And students cannot walk early. For many, it would be impossible to return in December for graduation. Why, then, do they have to pay the graduation fee? This topic will be discussed in Dean's Council.

The Committee also discussed the cost of covering health care insurance and fees for graduate assistants. Dr. LaPlant noted that it would significantly reduce the number of assistantships across campus, but the Committee can discuss the estimated cost and implications at a spring GEC meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn, seconded, at 3:05 pm.

Teresa Williams

Teresa Williams, Recorder

James T. LaPlant

James T. LaPlant, Ph.D., Interim AVP for
Research and Dean of the Graduate School