

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – Approved Feb. 7, 2023**

MEETING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 (via Zoom)

Attendance: Patrick Hadley, Nadya Williams, Dena Kneiss, , Sophia Robinson-Harris, Georgia Evans, Sarah Hupp Williamson, James Yoder, Jennifer Beggs Weber, Sally Richter, Charlie Sicignano, Brent Gilles, Patrick Wright, Kathy Skott-Myhre, Donna Haley, Daryush Ila, Matt Varga.

Guests: Josh Byrd, Jairus-Joaquin Matthews, Katy Green, Robert Griffin, Sally Richter

- I. Call to Order **11:01 am**
- II. Minutes from November 15 meeting: **Approved (via Google poll that concluded on November 28, 2022)**
 - A. **Chair introduced two new GPC members: Sophia Robinson-Harris (THSSON rep) and Patrick Wright (Graduate Student rep)**
- III. Program and Course Proposals
 - A. College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
 1. Department of English, Film, Language, and Performing Arts
 - a) [Music Education Educator Certification Program](#)
Request: Deactivate Existing Program
Rationale: There are no students currently enrolled in the program. All classes were part of our normal undergraduate music education sequence which has since been moved (at least partially) to the daytime. This prohibits people with provisional teaching positions to take all of the necessary coursework. The music faculty voted in August to terminate the program.
Decision: After discussion, the proposal to deactivate the Music Education Educator Certification Program was approved.
 - B. College of Education
 1. Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech Language Pathology
 - a) [Speech Language Pathology, M.Ed.](#)
Request: Modify Program

Rationale: We would like to change the admissions criteria for the program to increase equity and access for prospective students. Specifically, we will no longer require the GRE but will require completion of the CASPER Test. We will require two letters of recommendation as opposed to three.

Decision: During discussion a friendly amendment was requested by the program representative, Dr. Matthews, to end the second sentence of the Rationale after the word “GRE,” deleting the language “but will require completion of the CASPER Test.” The program has decided not to require this test. The proposal to modify the Speech Language Pathology, M.Ed. program, as amended, was approved.

2. Department of Educational Technology and Foundations

a) [School Library Media Certificate in Instructional Technology, Media, & Design](#)

Request: Modify Program

Rationale: Currently, the School Library Media (SLM) Certificate allows a student who does not hold a Georgia professional certificate to pursue the program while, concurrently, obtaining initial professional certification (through the Georgia Professional Standards Commission [GaPSC]) by completing four courses. However, after the revision of the SLM M.Ed. from a 36-hour program to a 30-hour program, it is more efficient for such a student, who is pursuing initial certification and preparation to serve as building-level school library media specialists in PK-12 schools, to pursue the M.Ed. program. Therefore, we propose removing the option to take the four, additional pre-requisite/co-requisite courses and limiting the SLM Certificate to students who already hold a Georgia professional certificate in any field. To do this, we request two changes: 1. Adding a Georgia professional certificate in any field as a requirement for admission. 2.

Removing the option to concurrently pursue the SLM Certificate and initial certification (by the GaPSC) by way of the four, additional courses (i.e., removing courses tied to initial certification from the program of study page: CURR 6575, EDRS 6301, CEPD 6101, SPED 6706).

Decision: After discussion, the proposal to modify the School Library Media Certificate in Instructional Technology, Media, & Design was approved.

3. Department of Literacy and Special Education

a) [READ 6705 Comprehensive Final Exam for M.Ed. in Reading Instruction](#)

Request: Add New Course

Rationale: Currently, the program faculty are notified by the Office of the Registrar with a list of tentative program graduates at the end and beginning of each semester. After we receive this list, the literacy faculty reach out to every student listed via their UWG email to provide them with specific instructions on how to register and prepare for their required Comprehensive Final Exam. Notices of the exam are also posted by all literacy faculty in their current graduate level READ courses. However, even with these two methods of notification in place, each semester one to two students on the tentative program graduates list do not register for the exam on time. Having a zero-credit placeholder course will help us ensure every student on the tentative program graduates list registers and completes the Comprehensive Final Exam required for graduation.

Decision: After discussion, the proposal to add READ 6705 – Comprehensive Final Exam for M.Ed., in Reading Instruction was approved.

b) [Special Education, Ed.S.](#)

Request: Modify Program

Rationale: The SPED program faculty have requested a modification to our catalog description and admission requirements. Please see the rationale below: 1. SPED program faculty proposed the modification to the catalog description in response to our growing number of applicants with speech-language pathologist backgrounds and master's degrees outside of special education who have extensive school-based experience. These students have historically excelled in prerequisite courses and provide feedback in course evaluations that the course objectives add little value given their professional experiences. 2. SPED program faculty proposed the modification to our admissions requirements to better align with peer institutions and prioritize performance on the last degree earned.

Decision: After discussion, the proposal to modify the Special Education, Ed.S. program was approved.

C. University College

1. Department of Civic Engagement and Public Service

a) [Criminology, M.A.](#)

Request: Modify Program

Rationale: The Criminology MA program is making modifications to both tracks: 1) Both tracks will now require CRIM 6233 Ethics in Criminal Justice as a core course, and 2) The Criminal Justice Administration track will require CRIM 6284 Graduate Capstone course to exit the program under this track (to replace the current comprehensive examination).

Decision: After discussion, the proposal to modify the Criminology, M.A. program was approved.

IV. New Business

A. Graduate School Policy Proposal

1. Academic Standing (see separate document in PDF)

a) Decision: After discussion, the proposal to modify the Academic Standing policy in the Graduate Catalog was approved.

B. Chair-Elect Selection (Chair for 2023-24 Academic Year)

1. Candidates must be Faculty Senators

The current chair (Patrick Hadley) asked that anyone interested in serving as chair of GPC for the 2023-2024 Academic Year contact him.

V. Announcements

A. GPC Meeting Schedule for Spring Semester 2023

1. Tuesday, February 7th from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

2. Tuesday, March 7th from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

3. Tuesday, April 4th from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Chair alerted committee members that Comprehensive Program Reviews for graduate programs will likely be provided to GPC next month. We will discuss the process and assignments at our next meeting once the review documents are available.

Matt Varga noted that the Graduate School had shared its Call for Assistantships for the next academic year. He is looking for representatives from GPC to participate in initial review and provision of recommendations to the Graduate School. Reach out to Matt directly with interest.

VI. Adjourn **11:32 am**