

Graduate Programs Committee Agenda Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Wednesday, 1 September 2021: 2PM-3PM via
ZOOM

Attendance: Dena Kniess, Connie Barbour, Patrick Hadley, Neema Nori, Jim Yoder, Georgia Evans, Kyle Lorenzano, Mai Naito Mills, Marie-Cécile Bertau, David Boldt, Brent Gilles, Laura Caramanica, Charlie Sicignano, Martavious Gordon, Toby Ziglar, Daryush Ila, and Donna Haley

Guest: Duke Biber, Department of Sport Management, Wellness, and Physical Education

I. Committee Introductions

II. Charges from Faculty Senate President for 2021-2022

- 1) Work closely with the Graduate Advisory Council and consult regularly with the Graduate School Dean - review curriculum proposals, but also be proactive in policy development
- 2) Recommend a policy on standardizing the credentials required for faculty to be designated as graduate faculty
- 3) Ensure faculty initiative in the creation and/or termination of graduate programs
- 4) Examine the relocation of GRAs from individual departments to the Graduate School
- 5) Program and Course Proposals

III. Course/Program Additions, Modifications, Deletions

ACTION ITEMS:

A. College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

1. Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology

A. SOCI 5015: Analyzing and Visualizing Data

Originator: Dr. Emily McKendry-Smith. Presented by Dr. Neema Noori.

Request: Add

Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: SOCI 4015 (Analyzing and Visualizing Data) currently exists as an undergraduate course, but graduate students have joined this course in the past by doing an independent study. Offering a graduate section of this course is useful to help MA students develop skills in data visualization and the proposed course can be added to the Sociology MA Applied Track as an additional option for the additional research methods course, which will help resolve a roadblock in students getting the courses they need to complete the track.

B. College of Education

1. Department of Sport Management, Wellness, and Physical Education

A. M.S. in Integrative Health and Wellness

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber
Request: Add – New Program
Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: This online, unique graduate degree-seeking program taps into the high demand field of preventative and integrative health and aligns with the institution's mission. The addition of this program would allow the University of West Georgia to be competitive with comparable and top-tier universities throughout USG and the southeast region of the U.S. in the high demand field of health and wellness coaching. The admissions requirements are a graduate application, 2-3 page Statement of Purpose, Resume, two letters of professional recommendation (i.e. employer, faculty member), transcripts from all institutions attended, and an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.

1) CMWL 6100 – Lifestyle Medicine and Integrative Health

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber
Request Add
Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: Required course for the M.S. in Integrative Health and Wellness

2) CMWL 6200 – Behavior Change Models, Methods & Theories

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber
Request Add
Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

3) CMWL 6300 – Mind Body Medicine

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber
Request Add
Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

4) CMWL 6400 – Exercise for Health & Healing

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber
Request Add
Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

5) CMWL 6500 – Health Technologies

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber
Request Add
Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

6) CMWL 6600 – Wellness Law & Entrepreneurship

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber

Request Add

Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

7) CMWL 6700 – Personal and Professional Development for Health and Wellness Coach

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber

Request Add

Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

8) CMWL 7000 – Advanced Health and Wellness Coaching

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber

Request Add

Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

9) CMWL 7100 – Capstone (Culminating Experience)

Originator: Dr. Duke Biber

Request Add

Decision: **Approved.**

Discussion: See A1

INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. College of Education

1. Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Speech-Language Pathology

A. M.Ed. in Professional Counseling – School and Clinical Mental Concentrations

Originator: Dr. Matt Varga

Request: Modify

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: Admissions requirements are updated to expand the pool of students to consider for admissions. The GRE requirement has been removed as it has not been predictive of student success. **The new admissions requirements for School Counseling include:** Passing score on the GACE Program Admission Assessment, Combined Test I, II, and III; or The GACE Program Admission Assessment, Combined Test I, II, and III can be exempted with the following scores: SAT exemptions on score reports dated PRIOR to 7/1/19: minimum combined Critical

Reading/Verbal and Mathematics score of 1000 OR Evidence Based Reading/Writing and Mathematics (from new SAT administered March 2016 forward) score of 1000; SAT exemptions on score reports dated ON or AFTER 7/1/19; minimum combined Evidence Based Reading/Writing and Mathematics score of 1080; ACT Composite score: 43 on English and Math; Valid Teaching Certificate. Written personal narrative describing the reasons for applying to the program, an analysis of personal strengths and weaknesses related to chosen option, career goals, and anticipated benefits from the program.

Interview with faculty. This interview will focus on the assessment of factors such as emotional maturity, professional related experience, readiness for the program, life experiences, attitude, compatibility with department goals, and communication/interpersonal skills.

The new admissions requirements for Clinical Mental Health Counseling include: Minimum 2.7 undergraduate GPA. A written personal narrative describing the reasons for applying to the program, an analysis of personal strengths and weaknesses related to the chosen option, career goals, and communication/interpersonal skills, Resume, Interview with faculty (after admissions file is complete)

B. Ed.S. in Professional Counseling

Originator: Dr. Matt Varga

Request: Modify

Decision: **Approved**

Discussion: Same rationale as A1A above. **The new admissions requirements should include:** Master's degree in counseling or very closely related field, minimum 3.0 graduate GPA, resume, and a written personal narrative describing the reasons for applying to the program, an analysis of personal strengths and weaknesses related to the chosen option, career goals, and communication skills.

IV. New Business

A. Graduate School

1. GA Policy for Assistantships in Academic Affairs – Draft Review

Originator: Dr. Toby Ziglar and Dr. Daryush Ila

Request: Review

Decision: **Table and Move to Graduate Advisory Council and College Deans for review and revision prior to re-review and decision by GPC**

Discussion: As written the proposal raised many questions and concerns. Amongst others, the basic rationale for the change, Graduate Program Heads' ability to hire GAs for their respective programs and their ability to plan ahead (when recruiting), the composition of the committee that will decide which departments/units will receive GAs, and the criteria for decision-making. With programs that are two-plus years in duration, the ability to apply for multi-year awards is a major concern as it more than likely would negatively affect recruitment as other institutions in our region could offer multi-year awards for graduate assistantships. This concerns in particular the PhD program of study in psychology which works with 3-year long

stipends that include the PhD students teaching an undergraduate class in their second and third year.

B. Graduate Faculty Policy Status Subcommittee

1. Dr. Georgia Evans, Dr. Linda Caramanica, and Dr. David Boldt volunteered to work with Dr. Ziglar on a policy for GPC to review

C. Secretary for Minutes

1. Dr. Neema Noori offered to take minutes for the October meeting and suggested we rotate through the committee to take minutes.

V. Announcements

- A. Next meeting is October 6th at 2 PM via Zoom – check your calendar for the link and send a proxy if you are unable to make the meeting

Adjourn: 3:02PM

Respectfully submitted by Dena Kniess, GPC Chair